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Kilili hopes Trump and Kim CUC board chair seat vacant would de-escalate rhetoric

By ERWIN ENCINARES

elegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) hopes that both leaders of the United States and North Korea would seek deescalation at the Korean peninsula.



» Trump: I too have a nuclear button

taunted Kim in a tweet saying that, like Kim, he also has a nuclear button at his desk.

"Will someone from his depleted and food-starved re-

See KILILI on Page 4

In a statement dated Jan. 3, 2018,

Sablan said that "more dialogue" is

needed between both U.S. President

Donald J. Trump and North Korean

leader Kim Jong Un after the former

By BEA CABRERA

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had its first board meeting for 2018 last Tuesday without a chairman.

The term of Commonwealth Development Authority chair Ignacio Perez expired last Dec. 20, making him lose his seat at the CUC board and his position as chairman. Under the law, the CDA chairman holds a seat in the CUC board simultaneously.

Pursuant to 4 CMC Section

See CUC on Page 4

JKPL turns 26

kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library celebrated its 26th anniversary last Friday with a family fun day mini-carnival that highlighted the library's many roles as a center of the Saipan community.

The main event was a magic show featuring the talents of the students under award-winning SandCastle Saipan illusionist Leon Etienne.

JKPL hosted a three-day magic camp for the first time and gained the participation of 100 children.

The camp was made possible through the help of the Friends of the JKPL and Etienne, who volunteered to teach the fundamentals of magic.

Etienne will also travel to Tinian and Rota for an extension of the magic camp as part of the celebration of JKPL's 26th anniversary.

Also showcased during the mini-carnival were books of local writers. The public was able to meet the author of each book and ask questions about it.

The mini-carnival also featured art exhibits like the Sugar King era art exhibit that was donated by the Sugar King Foundation, the Pacifica Insurance art exhibit, and an arts and crafts station.

See JKPL on Page 4

First lady Diann Torres cuts the cake during the celebration of Joeten Kiyu Public Library's 26th anniversary last Friday. See more photos on Page 8



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Spare parts are stripped from one broken-down locomotive to repair another.





NATION

Donald Trump is boasting that he has a bigger "nuclear button" than North Korea.

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LIFE & STYLE

Reese Witherspoon, Shonda Rhimes and Jennifer Aniston form an anti-harassment coalition.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com 2 THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan Computer Services gave back to its customers again through a raffle drawing of prizes worth thousands of dollars last Tuesday, with Edgar Johnson taking home the grand prize, a Microsoft Surface Pro bundle with a Pyle Pro Home Theatre WiFi projector and Bose Revolve Bluetooth speaker set.

SCS gives away thousands worth of prizes

According to SCS business development director Jerry Tiu, the customers are responsible for keeping SCS alive and successfully for over 30 years so it is only fair that they are shown appreciation at the end of each year.

"Every year we just want to say thank you to our cus-



Edgar Johnson, third from left, is presented with the grand prize at the Saipan Computer Services customer appreciation raffle last Tuesday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work as

Building Maintenance

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MarPac Dist., Inc offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village - Saipan. Deadline of submission is on January 12, 2018.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and eligibility to work in the CNMI. Police and Court Clearance required and pre-employment drug testing is mandatory

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated

and experienced individuals to work as

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Must have knowledge of clerical and administrative procedures

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Good Oral and Written Communications Skills

and systems such as filing and record keeping

Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed

Must be well organized and professional

Must be detail & deadline oriented

printers, fax and copier machines

& automated processing is a Plus

Must be 18 vrs of age or older

Knowledge of invoicing procedure

Point, Excel and Outlook

tomers because they have sustained us," he said.

This is the eighth year that SCS has hosted a customer appreciation raffle. They started back in 2010 and the prizes keep only getting grander.

'We conclude our eighth year and are looking forward

to a good one," said Tiu.

For 2017, the raffle prizes that were given away revolved around a "pro" theme.

The major prizes that were distributed last Tuesday included a complete Pyle Pro Home Theater, a MacBook Pro. a Go-Pro Hero Session. an iPad pro, a PS4 Pro, a

complete HP Pro-desk, and more.

Over 20 lucky SCS customers that purchased items or availed of SCS' services from November up to Dec. 30 and spent \$25 or more took home one or more of the 25 prizes hand-picked by the SCS staff.

The grand prize winner was Johnson, while the first place winner in the major prize category was Richard Brooks, who took home an Apple 13" MacBook Pro.

Andrew Aninon placed second in the major prize category, earning him a complete HP Pro-Desk 400 minicomputer. Vincent Torres III placed third in the major prize category, earning him an Apple iPad Pro.

The fourth place winner was Ruel Villacrusis who took home a brand new Sony Destiny2 PS4 Pro.

The fifth place winner was Darlene Cabrera and she was awarded a Go-Pro Hero session camera.

Sixth place major winner Yoo Duke J. took home a Beats by Dr. Dre Solo3 WiFi headphone.

The seventh major prize winner was Josh Slater and he was awarded a Lenovo Yoga Tab3 tablet.

The eighth major prize winner was Frances T. Salas and she was given a Fitbit Flex2 Fitness Wristband.

The eight minor prizes were \$30 worth of SCS or Ideal Signs services. The winners were Joey Paranada, Hazel Dela Santa, Luzviminda Francisco, Maria Cristina Basan, Daniel Mensah, James Fleming, Dylan Sablan, and Tixana Torres.

The eight consolation prizes were an SCS umbrella and a pair of mugs. Winners of the consolation prizes were Caroll Thongyai, Jack Angelo, Stephen Carino, Ruel Villacrusis, Rudelia Renojo, Antonio Kikiro, and James Fleming.

All winners have been contacted about their prizes.



Electrician/Technician

This position is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and repair of all IP&E retail assets. Ideal candidates should have a technical degree in electrical, mechanical, or automobile repair and maintenance or any other similar discipline with 2-3 years of work experience in the respective field. The successful candidate will be highly motivated; excellent written, verbal, and organizational skills; strong work ethic; and the ability to work independently as well as a positive team player. Travel may be required

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Tuesday, January 8, 2018.

Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department.

Office : Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950 Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village - Saipan. Deadline of submission is on January 9, 2018.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

MarPac Dist., Inc offers competitive salaries commensurate with

qualifications and experience.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and eligibility to work in the CNMI. Police and Court Clearance required and pre-employment drug testing is mandatory.

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer





IP&E Holdings is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CNMI law enforcers escort McDonnell to Illinois

By BEA CABRERA

bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com

The extradition of a man who was arrested on Saipan last October for sexually assaulting a child in Illinois pushed through a few days after Christmas Day, with two CNMI law enforcers accompanying him to Illinois.

Sean McDonnell's extradition was executed on the night of Dec. 29, 2017, under the supervision of the Department of Corrections, which had custody of McDonnell.

Two CNMI law enforcers were tasked to transfer Mc-Donnell to Illinois.

The extradition was unique because, instead of having McDonnell fetched on Saipan by officers from the corrections facility in Illinois where he will be detained, two CNMI law enforcers were paid to take McDonnell to Illinois.

This arrangement was done as the corrections facility in Illinois was having trouble setting up the extradition procedure in the CNMI.

At the status conference presided over by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Dec. 15, 2017, chief prosecutor Michelle Harris and assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid informed the court that a company called Inmate Services will bring McDonell back to Illinois.

At that same hearing, Wilbesheid said that executing an extradition procedure in the CNMI is complicated because of the unavailability of flights but was quick to assure the court that the extradition process will be executed appropriately.

McDonnell, 39, who was present with assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, was told he had 45 days from Dec. 15, 2017, to be brought back to Illinois.

The original date of the extradition was set last Dec. 18, 2017, but it was postponed. *Saipan Tribune* was not able to get statements from Harris and Dominski on the reason for the postponement.

Although the Dec. 18 scheduled extradition did not push through, McDonnell was given 45 days to be extradited from the CNMI to Illinois starting Dec. 15, 2017.

A status conference was set on Jan. 29, 2018, at 9am by Camacho, but since the extradition procedure has been executed, this shall be vacated.

McDonnell was arrested through a joint effort between the U.S. Marshals and the Department of Public Safety, led by police sergeant George F. David, on Saipan last October.

McDonnell is wanted in the county of Rock Island in Illinois, on multiple charges of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.





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In wake of gunplay, DPS revisits gun safety rules

REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is tightening its gun safety campaign in the wake of a recent accident that resulted in civilian injuries.

According to DPS public information officer Jackie Rae, the campaign to inform the public to know and practice gun safety comes at an opportune time.

"Recently, an officer left her firearm unattended that resulted in civilian injuries. Human injuries can always be prevented. DPS made an informative video to give the public an inside look at how DPS conducts intense training and provide guidelines on how firearms should be handled," she said.

"Aside from practical skills test, police cadets also have to pass a written examination before they receive hands-on weapons training that includes weapon safety," she added.

DPS shift supervisor Sgt. David Hosono, who is the officer-in-charge of the DPS armory and handles weapons training for new cadets, is featured in a video that is posted on the DPS social media page.

"The training covers the rules and regulations based on General Order 85-01 as this



DPS shift supervisor Sgt. David Hosono is officer-in-charge of armory and training of new cadets in weapons training at DPS Police Academy. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

is the procedure. The training also includes the fundamentals of marksmanship that covers four fundamental rules on gun safety and weapon manipulation on how to handle a weapon safely," he said.

"Following the rules and regulations in the general order, we inform cadets and officers that if they are under the influence of alcohol or any prescribed medication that might impair their physical and mental ability, they should not be in possession of a firearm," he added.

The term "clear your firearm" means a gun that is free of ammunition. Hosono gives a detailed instruction on how to execute this.

"When an individual is going to clear a firearm, that person must make sure that the gun is not pointed at anybody or at anything so have the gun facing a safe direction. If the magazine is still there, safely remove the magazine, visually and physically check the chamber and look for the magazine or any rounds. Conduct a first and second check until clear," he said.

It is standard procedure that when a DPS officer receives a firearm, it includes a gunlock box. This lock box provides secure storage of handguns.

Hosono emphasized that the use of a gunlock box is very

important as it prevents the gun from being seen in plain view. A trigger lock or cable is also highly suggested.

"It is good to invest in your own safety as well as in the safety of your loved ones at home. Repetition is the key and, during briefings, we keep emphasizing to supervisors and officers to secure their firearm because, as public safety officers, we should be on top of this high standard," Hosono added.

Last month, then police officer Jaimie Omengkar left her gun in the car that was eventually used by her younger brothers. One of the brothers, Kody Omengkar, found the gun in the car, played with it and in the process shot himself and his brother Kory Omengkar

Rae encourages the public to call 664-9001 for more information on firearm safety and visit the DPS official page on Facebook.

CUC

From Page 1

8131(a)(1), the chairman of the CDA board of directors shall serve as a member of the CUC.

Perez was elected CUC board chairman at the first official meeting of the newly reconstituted board on Dec. 5, 2017.

The other CUC board members are Weston Deleon Guerrero, vice chairman; Matthew Holley, secretary; Jovita Paulino, treasurer; and Miranda V. Manglona.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho said that vice chair Deleon Guerrero, in the meantime, is acting CUC board chairman.

"Right now we have acting chair, our vice chair Weston Deleon Guerrero who will lead and facilitate meetings until CDA have another chairman that will have a seat in the CUC board...I don't know how that's going to transpire because CDA is a completely different body than the CUC board," he said. "From my un-

derstanding, his (Perez's) term in the CDA expired, which makes him a non-member of the CDA board and, obviously, eliminates him from membership at the CUC board."

For its part, CDA vice chair Diego M. Songao is now the CDA acting chairman. Until the CDA board fills the vacant seat of CDA chairman, Songao will represent CDA on the CUC board.

Songao is not a neophyte when it comes to being a CUC board member. He served as CUC board vice chairman from 2014 up to the first quarter of 2015.

Camacho is looking forward to the new CUC board member representing CDA.

"I'm hopeful and confident that they will identify another chairman at the CDA and then that chairman will be a CUC board of director," he said. "I personally look forward to working very closely with that board member, together with the other board members, to assist and continue to work for a better CUC."

The next CUC board meeting will be on Jan. 12, 2018.

\$12M eyed for PSS, \$2.75M for CHO

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

A House of Representatives measure seeking to appropriate over \$24 million from the casino-licensee gross revenue tax was amended at the Ways and Means Committee, effectively reducing the allocation for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Last Dec. 13, 2017, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), committee chair and author of House Bill 20-147, introduced a bill that would appropriate \$24 million from the CGRT to various government agencies and obligations, including the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and numerous land compensation debts of the CNMI government.

In a Ways and Means

Committee meeting last Dec. 18, 2017, Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) proposed to amend the measure by reducing the amount allocated to CHCC by \$500,000 and appropriating it toward the land compensation debt.

CHCC was initially to be appropriated \$3.25 million

while \$1 million was to be appropriated for land compensation judgments against the Commonwealth government. After the committee unanimously accepted the amendments, CHCC would be appropriated \$2.75 million while \$1.5 million is for land

compensation judgments. According to Sablan, who chairs the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, the SNILD Ways and

Means Committee proposed an appropriation of \$2.3 million for CHCC.

"I believe that we could get the \$500,000 from [CHCC]. I ask for your indulgence to move the remaining balance toward [land compensation

judgments]," » Over \$24M in he said before appropriations offering amendment.

The \$500,000 goes toward the Manglona v CNMI judgment, which, according to cair Demapan, costs the NMI government \$693 a day in interest.

"In an effort to lessen the financial impact, the additional \$500,000 would bring that particular judgment down by \$1 million," he said. A total of \$1 million goes to the Manglona v CNMI judgment. "We still owe another \$4 million to that particular judgment after

this. We hope to take care of that at the next round of supplemental revenue."

Some \$1.7 million was initially appropriated toward Rota and Tinian's telecommunications infrastructure, but floor leader Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) proposed an amendment to direct the funding toward land compensation debts on Rota and the West San Jose Homestead Water Project on Tinian.

"They felt that those two are more pressing [matters] than the telecommunication infrastructure. They would like to pursue other funding opportunities in the future to accommodate the telecommunication infrastructure." said Demapan.

H.B. 20-147, HS1 passed the committee and now heads to the House for review as a whole.

port of the Friends of the JKPL, and the help of various partners such as Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, Northern Marianas College, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marianas Pacific, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Ameri-Corps, the Public School System, library volunteers,

KILILI

From Page 1

gime please inform [Kim] that I too have a nuclear button, but it is a much bigger and more powerful one than his—and my button works!" Trump tweeted in his official Twitter account.

In his New Year's address, Kim initially stated a wish for peace with South Korea but then went back to his threats and taunts against the U.S.

The improvement of inter-Korean relations is the starting point for peace and reunification, and it is a pressing demand of the whole nation," said Kim in his address as translated by the National Committee on North Korea.

"We will continue to build up our self-defense capability, the pivot of which is the nuclear forces, and the capability for pre-emptive strike, as long as the United States and its vassal forces keep on nuclear threat and blackmail

and as long as they do not stop the war games they stage at our doorstep, disguising them as annual events," Kim added, referring to the military exercises between the U.S. and South Korea

Sablan believes that although the U.S. is "militarily more powerful," "nothing good will emerge if war erupts with North Korea."

"More dialogue is what is needed. Not tweets from our President, or threats from Kim, especially since the entire world already knows of America's military dominance," said Sablan.

News outlet CNN reported that Kim is looking to send a delegation to the upcoming Winter Olympics that is going to be held at Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.

"I hope that both President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would find ways to de-escalate tensions in this region," said Sablan.

JKPL

From Page 1

There were live performances by bands and the ukulele club led by ukulele instructor Larry Lee.

A demo was held for those interested in using the National Library Service's Braille books and Digital Talking

books that the library will soon offer. These books will be for the visually impaired. The library discontinued this service for awhile but is in the process of reviving it. According to JKPL's library director Erlinda Naputi, she is determined to get this service back this year.

According to JKPL technical services librarian Beth De-

mapan, a little over 300 community members showed up for the anniversary event, the magic camp reached its maximum capacity and all the children gained the confidence to perform magic tricks, and the participants of the event were all lively and interactive.

She attributed the celebration's success to Naputi, the Governor's Office, the supand the public.

Kilili looks at year in review

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) issued a Year in Review in his final newsletter for 2017 last Friday. "Many seeds planted in years past bore fruit in 2017," he reported.

Among the work that required years to bring to fruition was the increase in school funding. The Public School System received an additional \$4.1 million in July because of the funding formula change that Sablan included in the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015. And this year the new, annual formula went into effect.

Also bearing fruit was the food assistance pilot program Sablan placed in the Agricultural Act of 2014. "There was \$30.5 million in the Act for the Marianas to increase benefits and make more families eligible for food aid," Sablan said. "But first the Agriculture Department and the Commonwealth government had to agree on exactly how to use the money in the new E-NAP program.

"It took time, but at least now—finally—more families are getting more help, which was always my goal."

Sablan also reported that he has already introduced legislation to extend the E-NAP program for another five years with a proposed \$42.5 million.

Veterans issues

This year, the Marianas delegate also obtained a waiver to the usual two-committee limit this year, allowing him to become a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He sits on the Education and the Workforce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee, too. His new committee position is reflected in much of 2017's work.

"We got Veterans [Committee chair] Phil Roe to agree to hold a hearing

in 2018 on how hard it is for veterans in the Pacific islands to get access to services and benefits," Sablan said. "And, as a committee member, I was also able to light a fire under the whole service delivery system, getting more VA staff to the Marianas to meet with veterans at the Veterans Fairs we hosted on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan and other events.

"The highlight may have been bringing the CEO of TriWest, the company that manages the Veterans Choice health program, out to the Marianas," Sablan said.

Veterans Choice allows veterans, who cannot get service from far away VA clinics to go to private healthcare providers in the local community instead.

"Lots of health providers in the Marianas were not signed up to participate in Choice," Sablan said. "Some were part of the network and did not even know it. We tripled the number of providers through our outreach efforts.

Sablan made all Marianas veterans eligible for Choice in the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

"Again, many veterans were just not aware of this option. TriWest pays for everything. There is no copay, no deductible. It is a great deal for



Sablan

veterans: and they should be taking advantage of it," said Sablan.

Also years in the making was the Saipan troop store that opened in 2017. "It all began with the feasibility

study that I put into the National Defense Authorization Act in 2010, my first term in Congress.

Stay focused

"You just have to stay focused on what will improve the lives of the people you work for and keep on top of that vision, year-after-year," according to Sablan.

For instance, 2017 was a year dominated with work on labor issues in the Marianas. Sablan's first bill, introduced within days of his swearing in, blocked the use of CW permits for temporary construction workers. They took one-third of the permits in 2016—a disaster for many local businesses and the hospital.

Sablan quickly got the bill through the House, then a Senate hearing and vote, and signature by the President in just eight months. For the first time ever, Congress reversed the policy of reducing CW permits to zero and actually added a limited number for 2017.

"That bill is actually a seed in itself," Sablan said. "Putting it together required educating a disparate group of congressional offices and getting their consensus.

"That same group is now working on a long-term policy that will ensure we have enough workers to keep our economy going.

"And, if we are successful, that policy will definitely be on the Year in Review list for 2018," he added.

To see the entire Year in Review list, go to https://sablan. house.gov/ or write to kilili@ mail.house.gov to subscribe to the Sablan's weekly report, ekilili. (PR)









Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Royal View Hotel, Himawari Hotel & Commercial Bldg.,

Gualo Rai Townhouse The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Royal View Hotel, the Himawari Hotel &

Mr. Hui Tao Tsang is proposing to construct and operate the Royal View Hotel. The Royal View Hotel is a five-story hotel building in Garapan, Saipan formerly the Sunleader Market. The project includes 51 guest rooms, a snack bar and dining area and 42 parking spaces

Commercial Building, and the Gualo Rai Townhouse projects.

The Himawari Saipan, Inc. is proposing to expand its hotel operation by constructing a 4-story building with 50 additional hotel units. Himawari has an existing 3-story commercial building which includes a hotel of 50 rooms, a grocery store, bakery

The Arcadia Partners, LLC is proposing to construct eight pre-fabricated 3-bedroom townhouses, two- to three-stories each, in Gualo Rai, Saipan. The developer proposes to provide two parking spaces for each unit (16 total parking spaces), as well as swimming pools and landscaping designs for the property.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018, at 5:00 P.M. at the American Memorial Park Theater.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about these projects.

/s/ Janice E. Castro Division of Coastal Resources Management

restaurant and parking spaces.









*Terms & conditions apply, 24 month contract and plan required for postpaid promotions. Minimum \$40 plan required for Samsung J5 Pro. Online purchases will be for new activations only, All prepaid sales are final. Limited time offer and while supplies last. Other terms and conditions may apply.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 18, 2018

5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

- Adoption of 11/09/2017 meeting minutes Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

Public Hearings

- Conditional Use Application #2017-3788: Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units
- an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.

 Conditional Use Application #2017-4537: YES Corporation dba YES Bed & Breakfast is proposing to occupy an existing 7-bedroom residential home and rent out 5 units for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot
- district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 003 I 30 along Tarakitu Street in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

 File #2017-5210: Jin Ho Corp. dba MGM Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#225-3-7/8, Chalan Msgr. Martinez in As Lito, north of Guangdong.
- File #2017-5275: DKK Inc. dba Dollars Poker & Winners Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishments' relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. Dollars Poker is currently located in a Tourist Resort zone on Lot#004 D 41,Beach Road in Garapan, south of Saipan Ocean View Hotel. Winners Poker is currently located in a Mixed Commercial zone on Lot#004 D 69, Orchid Street in Garapan, south of
- Garapan Elementary School

 File #2017-5299: Sky Corporation dba Dandan Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#H221-2-11, Dandan Road in
- Commercial zone on Log-fil221-2-11, Dandan Road in Dandan, south of Lucky De Market.

 File #2017-5300: Sky Corporation dba JL Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishments' relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Log-filo R 183, Dandan Road in Pandan earth of Pandan Middle School.
- Commercial zone on Lot#010 K 185, Dandan Road in Dandan, south of Dandan Middle School.

 File #2017-5301: JSJ Company Ltd., dba KM Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#012 G 66, Kagman Road in Kagman east of Kagman Market
- Commercial zone on Lot#012 G 66, Kagman Road in Kagman, east of Kagman Market.

 File #2017-5303: 3 Js Corporation dba Joy Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on TR 21818-3, Texas Road in Susupe,
- south of Susupe Lake Apartments.

 File #2017-5322: Pacific Amusement Inc. dba High Roller 3 is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#005 I 420, Koblerville
- Road in Koblerville, across from Han Nam Supermarket. File #2017-5323: Pacific Amusement Inc. dba High Roller I is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Mixed Commercial zone on Lot#004 D 401, Chalan Pale
- Arnold in Garapan, south of Century Hotel. File #2017-5326: KSK Corporation dba Shany II poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#015 H 27/28, Chalan Kanoa
- Drive in Chalan Kanoa.

 File #2017-5364: LDK, Inc. dba Yuta Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Chalan Pale Arnold in San Roque, north of San Roque Market.

 13. Files #2017-5399: P&S Inc., dba 888 Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the
- permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Mixed Commercial zone on Lot#005 D 38, Kadena Di Amor Street in Garapan, southwest of Mobil Gas Station.
- Files #2017-5400: P&S Inc., dba Orchid Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Mixed Commercial zone on Lot#004
- D 37, Garapan Street in Garapan.
 Winnerslife Inc. & Dan B. Choi dba SH II Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on Lot#12 G 13, Kagman Road in Kagman.
- Winnerslife Inc. dba SH I Poker is requesting to extend its poker establishment's relocation to the permitted zoning districts beyond the deadline of October 25, 2017. It is currently located in a Village Commercial zone on TR22746, Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi in Fina Sisu.
- Communication
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
 - Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement/Public Hearing Procedures)
- **Executive (Closed) Session**
- Miscellaneous
 - Other Matters Announcements
 - Next Meeting
- Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Supreme Court vacates order excluding witness

On Dec. 28, 2017, the CNMI Supreme Court issued its decision in Commonwealth v. Allan A. Taitano, 2017 MP 19, holding a trial court may not exclude a prosecution's key witness as a sanction for prosecutorial misconduct unless defendant demonstrates actual prejudice.

Allan A. Taitano was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting Nukey Manglona. Prior to trial, Taitano moved to exclude Manglona from testifying at trial as a sanction for prosecutorial misconduct. Taitano asserted his constitutional right to interview witnesses was violated when the prosecution interfered with Manglona's free choice to speak with the defense.

He argued the prosecution discouraged Manglona by advising him not to speak with the defense because speaking with the defense would not be in his best interest. Also, Taitano asserted the prosecution engaged in a heated argument and cursed at the defense counsel in front of Manglona, which further discouraged him from speaking to the defense.

Following an evidentiary hearing, the court concluded there was prosecutorial misconduct, but the misconduct did not rise to the level of a constitutional violation. The court, however, excluded Manglona from testifying at trial as a sanction, noting the exclusion was to remedy potential prejudice.

The prosecution appealed, arguing the court abused its discretion by excluding the alleged victim and sole evewitness. The Supreme Court agreed, concluding "extreme sanctions, such as the exclusion of a key witness, are not appropriate remedies absent showing actual or tangible prejudice to the defendant." Accordingly, the high court vacated the exclusion and remanded the case.

The high court's full opinion is available at http:// www.cnmilaw.org/supreme17.html. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB18-DLNR/DFW-038 SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 24, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

<u>"Purchase of two (2) thermal imaging cameras for the department</u> <u>of lands & antural resources, division of fish and wildlife"</u>

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS WAT BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE SECRETARY, DLRN

High surf seen until Saturday

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the **CNMI Emergency Operations** Center State Warning Point, a large north swell will produce hazardous surf and a high risk of rip currents along north facing reefs the next couple of

A high surf advisory is in effect until 6am Saturday.

The National Weather Ser-

vice in Tiyan has issued a high surf advisory, which Surf will be hazardous at 7 to 9 feet along north facing reefs until today, Thursday, and may rise to 10 feet at times Thursday night. Surf will remain hazardous at least into Friday night.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near reef lines and exposed beaches, especially those facing north, as rip currents will be life threatening. *(EOC)*

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP18-OGM-043

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 05, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M 'ROTA SLAUGHTERHOUSE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT'

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS. NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. Administrator, Office of Grants

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 24, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M. "PURCHASE OF A SOFTWARE-AS-A-SERVICES BUDGETING SOFTWARE <u>(Saas) for the office of management and budget"</u>

THE PROJECT RFP PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE **JANUARY 05, 2018** AT THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET, JUAN A. SABLAN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Jiang Zheng Group Inc. dba **Shanghai Guest House**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Thursday, January 18, 2018 Date:

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center,

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, January 17, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Yes Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. YES Corporation dba YES Bed & Breakfast is proposing to occupy an existing 7-bedroom residential home and rent out 5 units for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 003 I 30 along Tarakitu Street in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Thursday, January 18, 2018 Date:

Time: 5:00 pm

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, January 17, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Travel agencies found not responsible for death at Tinian cliff

On Dec. 27, 2017, the NMI Supreme Court issued its decision in Ho Chan Jung et al., v. Mode Tour Saipan Corp.et al., 2017 MP 18.

The high court >>> Punitive concluded punidamages not tive damages are not available unavailable der the Commonunder wealth wrongful wrongful death statute. It also reversed the death claims verdict jury's

and trial court's order finding Mode Tour Saipan Corp. and Mode Tour Network Inc. Korea responsible for the death of Hoseung Joung.

In 2008, Joung fell off from a cliff to his death while participating in a cliff-fishing expedition on Tinian. His brother, wife, and mother sued Mode Tour.

The jury returned a verdict finding Mode Tour Korea 90 percent at fault and Mode Tour Saipan 10 percent at fault

for Joung's death, awarding \$2.1 million in damages.

Tour Mode moved to reverse the jury verdict, arguing it had no duty under Com-

monwealth law to warn Joung of any danger presented by the cliff as it was clearly obvious and apparent.

The court denied Mode Tour's request, and reapportioned the liability amongst the parties. The court determined MTS was 50 percent

Pacifica Insurance names new president

The board of directors of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., the leading insurance agency in the CNMI, has appointed, Shirley T. Sablan as its new president and chief

operations officer. She replaced Norman T. Tenorio, who has been with the company since 1984 and is retiring as president but will continue in the same capacity as chief executive of-

ficer and to take a new role as the chairman of the company.

Sablan, who has taken over her new role as president since Jan. 2, 2018, was the executive vice president and general manager of Pacifica since June 1, 2011. Under her guidance, Sablan helped drive the company into becoming a top

Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Chalan Kiya

Attorney for Petitioner / Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE OF:) NOTICE OF HEARING ON MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND) TRUST TO SELL REAL LIVA HOCOG) PROPERTY SECURING

LILY A. HOCOG, MORTGAGE TO SATISFY CLAIM

) IN PROBATE PROCEEDING

ABSENT A FORECLOSURE
ACTION; AND/OR IN THE

ALTERNATIVE, A WRIT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February

02, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., a hearing will be

held before Judge Joseph N. Camacho on

the Petition by Claimant Marianas Public

Land Trust to Sell Real Property Securing

Mortgage to Satisfy Claim in Probate

Proceeding Absent a Foreclosure Action;

and/or in the Alternative, A Writ

Authorizing the Sale of the Mortgaged

Property in the above-captioned matter,

at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma

Hustisia, Civic Center, Commonwealth of

Respectfully submitted on this 20th day of

/s/ Clerk of Court

the Northern Mariana Islands.

December, 2017.

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 503758 CK

Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: 234-7859 Fax: 234-5750

IN THE MATTER OF

company in the CNMI. Her new leadership as president will continue its ongoing commitment to serving its customers, employees and investors at the highest possible level and

> will remain deeply involved with members of our community through various community activities and efforts.

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., a locally owned and managed com-

pany, has been in operation for 44 years and growing. Pacifica Insurance is a full-service and full-line insurance agency and is the general agent for Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance, Century Insurance Co., Pacific Guardian Life Insurance Co., and Aetna International. (PR)

at fault, MTN was 30 percent at fault, and Joung was 20 percent at fault. Additionally. the court determined punitive damages were not available in a wrongful death claim.

Appellants appealed the court's order denying punitive damages. Appellants and MTS appealed the court's ruling as to the reapportionment of liability. Mode Tour appealed the jury's verdict and

court's order finding liability.

The Supreme Court determined the Commonwealth wrongful death statute allows recovery of pecuniary damages. Pecuniary damages are damages that can be estimated and monetarily compensated. Because punitive damages are nonpecuniary, the high court held it is not one of the available remedies contemplated by the CNMI's wrongful death statute. The Supreme Court reversed the jury verdict and the court's order finding Mode Tour liable. It stated under Commonwealth law, agents and tour operators do not have a duty to disclose information about obvious or apparent dangers. Mode Tour and Joung equally had the opportunity to observe the cliff line and its surroundings during day light. They were

both equally capable of assessing the cliff was steep and that there was no guardrail or fence at the edge of the cliff. Because the danger was apparent and obvious, the high court concluded that Mode Tour owed no duty to warn Joung of the apparent danger and therefore, was not liable.

The high court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme17.html. (PR)

Registration for NMC spring semester ongoing

Northern Marianas College is reminding those interested in advancing their education or professional career that registration for the college's spring semester is currently ongoing until Jan. 12, 2018.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions & Records in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or may be downloaded from www. marianas.edu.

Supporting documents (i.e., transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application.

New students are required to take the math and English placement tests; the placement test dates are listed at www.marianas.edu. New and readmitted students must also attend a student orientation in order to register for courses. Note other important dates below:

■ Jan. 8-9, 2018: Online student orientation for new and returning students

■ Jan. 8-12, 2018: Late registration/ advising period

■ Jan. 16, 2018: First day of class for spring 2018

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early

childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management; associate degrees business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts

(emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6772 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-18-IFB-007

SUPPLY, DELIVERY & INSTALLATION OF NEW PLAYGROUND **EOUIPMENT FOR PAUPAU BEACH PARK SAN ROOUE. SAIPAN**

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Supply, Delivery & Installation of New Playground Equipment for Paupau Beach Park San Roque, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI),

The project package will be available on or after <u>December 21, 2017</u> at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan,

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on January 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 12, 2018 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-18-IFB-007", For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2018. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, January 22, 2018, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to <u>procurement@pticom.com</u>. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than <u>January 22, 2018</u> and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than January 31, 2018. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 2, 2018. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m. local time, on January

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000,00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred (US\$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

HERMAN S. SABLAN Director of Procurement & Supply



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-18-2008

For: HAPPY CHILDREN IN PARADISE CAMPAIGN **20th ANNIVERSARY SAIPAN-DA BACKPACKS**

Submission /Closing Date:

January 22, 2018

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **December 18, 2017, at the** Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by January 22, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Ms. Brenda Repeki in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to brepeki@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 22, 2018.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Ms. Brenda Repeki at brepeki@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 5, 2018.

/s/ Christopher J. Nelson

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion Acting Chairperson, Board of Directors Managing Director

8 THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

JKPL: 26 Years of Service



Representatives of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation pose with the books that were published by

the foundation during the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 26th anniversary last Friday.

Ninth Circuit, NMI District Court cosponsor civics contest

FRANCISCO—The 2018 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest offers high school students in the western United States and Pacific islands a chance to win cash prizes while learning how the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution has helped shape their education.

The theme of the contest is "The 14th Amendment 150 Years After Ratification: What Does Equal Protection Mean to Students?" Students are asked to write an essay and/or produce a video focusing on how Congress and the

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed on Friday

Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. (PR)

Reconciliation forms

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

will be closed for Professional Development on Friday, Jan.

5, 2018. It will be resuming regular business hours again on

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their

monthly grief support meeting today, Jan. 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm,

in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families

toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a

child of any age and to provide information to help others to

be supportive. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.

com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-

1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance

began distributing the 2017 W2-CM and Annual Reconciliation

forms and instructions last Dec. 22. Businesses, employers, and

all payroll service providers are encouraged to reserve forms

needed by calling the Administration Office of the Division of

Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000, 664-1098 or via fax at 664-

1015. Forms will be available for pick-up from the Compliance

Employers are also reminded that forms are required to be

Branch or main office located in the Joeten Dandan Building.

filed at Revenue and Taxation by Feb. 28, 2018. (PR)

their website atwww.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

Distribution of 2017 W2-CM and Annual

Family grief support group to meet today

federal courts have applied the 15 judicial districts that the Equal Protection Clause to education. The contest is open to young people in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. territory of Guam, and nine western states. Students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools or home-schooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.

The contest is cosponsored by the courts and Community Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and the federal courts in make up the circuit.

A total of \$7,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. The top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions will receive \$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second place, and \$500 for third place.

In addition, the first-place

winners, along with a parent or guardian, will be invited to the 2018 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Anaheim, California.

Many of the participating federal courts are sponsoring local contests offering additional prizes. Winners at the local level become finalists in nmid.uscourts.gov.

the circuit contest.

The U.S. District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands will conduct a local contest for island youth. For more information about the district contest, please contact: Amanda Hayes, (670) 237-1230 / amanda_hayes@

Contest rules and information are available at: http:// www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest. Entries will be accepted beginning Feb. 1, 2018. The deadline for entries will be April 1, 2018. Local contest winners will be announced in May and the Ninth Circuit winners in June. (PR)

Learn how to harness social media for your business

To start the new year, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Tribe Marianas present a training seminar that focuses on the effective use of social media to find new customers, engage existing customers, and enhance the overall effectiveness and success of your business.

Social media is changing every business. It changes how we sell and how we con-

nect to our customers, no matter what size the business may be. Whether you launch a large campaign online or something smaller, it's helpful to know more about controlling your message, and determining the success of your efforts. Your competitors are devoting increasing amounts of resources into social media marketing, and so should you!

During this training semi-

nar, called "Social Media for Business," presenters will not only tackle the ins and outs of networking when using social media but will assist participants in determining their target market and identifying the various approaches and platforms that will best achieve your goals. Learn how to elevate the level of your sales transactions while communicat-

ing professionalism, gaining respect, enhancing customer relationships, and securing an overall competitive advantage through the power of social media. With the increase of business development on our island, we are experiencing a competitive workforce and an even more demanding consumer base, it is imperative to have knowledge and tools to set your business apart.

Both retail and service industries can greatly benefit from the free advertising available on line. Entrepreneur Magazine reports that 85 percent of Americans surveyed said that mobile devices are a central part of their everyday lives. The Facebook mobile app has over one billion monthly active users. Social media is business in the palm of your hands!

This seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, from 9am to 11:30am. Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Reservations and advance payment are required as seating is limited. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 234-7150 or email us atcoordinator@saipanchamber.com. (SCC)



UTV TOUR

Talent and crew of China's "Travel with CEO" television show film a UTV tour on Dec. 5, 2017, as part of their location shoot in the CNMI.

NMC offices closed today

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development activities today, Jan. 4, 2018. All NMC offices will be closed on this day to ensure maximum employee participation. Please note that all Academic Programs and Services offices will also be closed on Friday, Jan. 5, 2018, to allow APS faculty and staff to participate in faculty-focused training activities. Other offices, including student service offices, will be open. For any campus emergency, contact NMC Security at 237-6800. For more information about upcoming events, visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

CNMI Homeless Coalition meeting today

The CNMI Homeless Coalition will be having its general membership meeting today, Jan. 4, 2018, 10am at the Division of Youth Services conference room in Chalan Piao (adjacent to Bank of Guam). The coalition would like to invite partners, organizations, agencies and individuals providing direct or indirect services to individuals and/or families who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. If you may have any questions or concerns, contact Jacob Muna at 234-7689, 483-9447, or email jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. (PR)

JKPL offers ukulele classes

Registration for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Beginner and Advance Ukulele Class is now open. The minimum age requirement is ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is \$50.

Ukulele classes are held at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and son, Kui Lee. The deadline to register is Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018. For questions, call Celina Foreman or Victoria Cabrera at 235-7315/7322 during regular library hours. (PR)

SandCastle illusionists to receive magic's high honor

TUMON. Guam—Illusionists Chris and Ryan Zubrick, currently headlining the sensational "ZUBRICK" show at the SandCastle Dinner Theatre in Guam, will receive the magic industry's most prestigious honor today when they are presented with a Merlin Award for "Best Family Magic Show" by the International Magicians Society.

Tony Hassini, society chairman and CEO, is traveling to Guam to make the presentation at the SandCastle.

"Through dedication and incredible talent, Chris and Ryan have made the ZUBRICK brand the gold standard in magic and family entertainment," Hassini said. "They are very deserving of the industry's top honor."

"The 'ZUBRICK' show has elevated quality entertainment

to levels never before seen [in] Guam," said Mark Baldyga, chairman and CEO of Baldyga Group, which operates the SandCastle. "I am delighted Chris and Ryan are being recognized at the highest levels of their craft."

The Merlin Award is the most prestigious honor bestowed by the magic community and is based on talent, showmanship, originality, skill, and the ability to entertain under any conditions. Likened to the "Oscar of Magic," previous recipients include Criss Angel, Siegfried & Roy, Penn & Teller, Doug Henning, and David Copperfield.

"We are passionate about creating a fantastic, one-of-akind experience for the entire family," Chris and Ryan Zubrick said in a statement. "Our mission is to amaze and entertain people of all ages and create wonderful memories families will share forever."

"We are grateful to the International Magicians Society and very proud to bring this international recognition to Guam," the statement added. "Words can't express our deepest appreciation for our supporters here, especially our audiences, Mark Baldyga and everyone at the SandCastle."

With intimate sleight-ofhand, elaborate stage production featuring sequined showgirls and acrobatics, non-stop showmanship and amazing feats that include on-stage appearances by their three Bengal tigers, the Zubrick thrill audiences of all ages with their unique blend of artistry and style.

"I love watching audience faces during the show," said SandCastle general manager

Michael Storm. "From anticipation to dramatic tension, from laughter to amazement, 'ZUBRICK' is a memorable family experience for our guests."

"Chris and Ryan are consummate professionals, respected for their artistry and stage presence," said Sand-Castle director of Entertainment Chuck McCarroll. "We are so fortunate to have them. Everyone living on or visiting Guam should take advantage of the opportunity to see the show. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world."

'ZUBRICK' opened at the SandCastle in Tumon in 2016. There are two nightly shows, five nights a week. For ticket information, visit https:// en.guam-bgtours.com or call reservations at 1-671-646-8000. (PR)

10 THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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MEMBER

Ap The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Tumult, but excitement in 2018

he year just passed (thankfully) saw America go through a political whirlwind. Donald Trump, inaugurated at the beginning of 2017, had a chance to attempt to achieve the unity all new presidents seek. Instead, his inaugural speech was short, uninspiring and used the "America First" phrase as a rhetorical club. All inaugural addresses are an opportunity set a "tone" for a presidency, and Trump did.

It has been a harsh tone, marked on most mornings by tweets attacking his enemies and lingering on his resentments against Hillary Clinton, the opponent he despised fiercely, and his predecessor, Barack Obama, who after eight years of attacks from Republicans managed to leave office with strong approval ratings.

But Trump has obsessively pushed for the elimination of the Affordable Care Act, which he dismissively calls "Obamacare," despite its growing popularity. And yes, despite the fact that ending it would leave more than 20 million Americans without health care. Even now, almost a year into his presidency, Trump seems preoccupied by Obama, resentful of his success and his charisma,

And he seems just as mad at Clinton, though his victory is more than a year old. His tweeting outbursts about "Crooked Hillary" are appalling to other world leaders who knew her as secretary of state, and his apparent ignorance of the impact of his words on the image of the United States is distressing, to put it mildly.

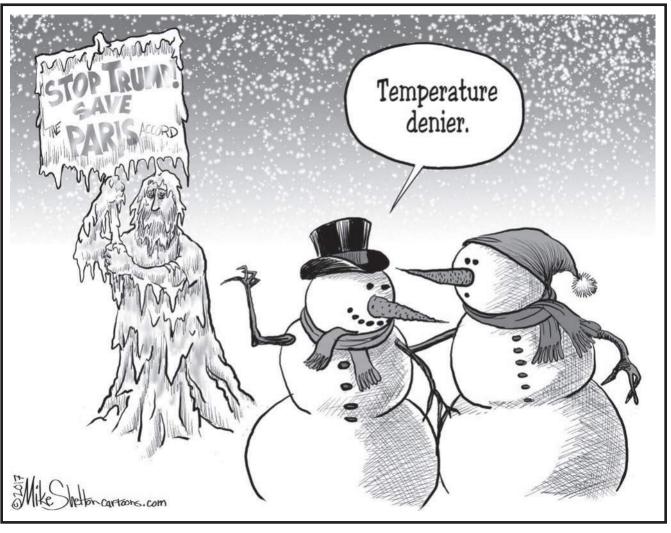
Yes, as 2018 has arrived, it's impossible not to focus on the troubled presidency of Donald Trump, a presidency that could well come to a premature end if special counsel Robert Mueller presses on with the "Russia probe."

But in North Carolina, a positive leadership change has come. Democrat Roy Cooper, long-time attorney general and former legislator, has been the target of budget-cutting and other attempts to weaken his office, but he's carried on, bringing the state back from the economic harm done by HB2, the ridiculous bill restricting the rights of some in the LGBT community and limiting local governments in their aims to protect those rights. The law cost the state millions of dollars and thousands of jobs before a compromise was reached, and imperfect though it is, Cooper has been able to recruit new businesses after the HB2 lapse.

North Carolinians will look to 2018 not for radical change – Republicans are likely to retain power over the General Assembly given gerrymandering – but some gains by Democrats are likely, perhaps giving Cooper an effective veto, meaning one that cannot be overriden.

Yes, there's more to life than politics. But as 2018 dawns it's hard to escape the "Trump effect" from the courthouse to the state house.

(c)2018 The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)



How did we get here, America?

y cheeky sons created a shocking display under the Christmas tree and waited to see us react. It was a collection of books about politics, parenthood and such pulled off our shelves. None was X-rated but their authors included Mark Halperin, Al Franken, Bill Cosby, Roman Polanski and Bill Clinton.

Seeing those men's names together like that felt sickening at first. Then it drove home how our household has contributed to the fortunes of such high-profile men now accused of sexual abuses. And it made you wonder about other people we read, watch, get the news from and laugh with. Who are they, really?

The offenses involving prominent people have ranged in egregiousness, but all crossed lines that shouldn't be crossed. If abuses like those are as ubiquitous as the disclosures prompted by the #MeToo movement in 2017 suggested, then every one of us has had some kind of relationship with an abuser, even by having a president who's been named as one by some women.

Now at the dawn of 2018, "who are we?" is a question many of us find ourselves asking more broadly. How did we, America, get to a place where an independent investigator is needed to probe if a foreign government—Russia, no less—was invited to tamper with our presidential elections?

And how, more than 150 years after the Civil War ended, do white nationalists, Klansmen and neo-Nazis feel emboldened to put their racial hatred on menacing display in a march in Charlottesville, Va., that turned fatal? Why did the president minimize it, at first assigning blame equally to counter protesters standing up against racism?

When our head of state thumbs his nose at the liberty and justice for all we pledge allegiance to, sides with the alleged child molester running for Senate and pardons the former Arizona sheriff sentenced for illegally profiling immigrants, are we responding with requisite outrage? And when the federal tax law serves up massive tax cuts to the rich, adding \$1 trillion to the federal debt, do we normalize that in our minds?

Who are we as residents of a state if we don't stand up for children's safety, clean drinking water and adequately funded public schools? Those were once things we all agreed on, regardless of political party, before special-interest money and the courting of ideological constituencies had leaders sacrificing the public interest to put core priorities at risk.

How did we get to a place where it is legal to have loaded guns in childcare centers as we now do in Iowa? The governor's office here even blocked common-sense safety regulations proposed by the state Department of Human Services, like barring loaded weapons from vehicles transporting those young children By REKHA BASU

Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.



or requiring guns in centers to be locked and separated from ammunition, or notifying parents they're there. Why on Earth do we need guns in childcare centers?

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said she wants "all stakeholders" at the table before requiring such measures. By which I assume she meant gun manufacturers, distributors and lobbyists more than childcare workers and parents. Legislation signed by her predecessor already allows children of any age to use handguns under adult supervision. Between that Stand Your Ground law and the laughable 40-minute online handgun-use training course you can doze your way through and still pass in Iowa, all Iowans, especially young ones, are at risk.

Where are our priorities? While putting toddlers in danger in day care, the state has put more children at risk in their homes by cutting staffing at the Department of Human Services even as caseloads have risen and children have died. The Legislature in 2017 turned away \$2 million in federal Medicaid funds for family planning just to spite any agency that offered abortion—even though the money wasn't going for that. That forced Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, which used the money to pay for birthcontrol services for moderate-income Iowans, to close four clinics.

What are our priorities—as states, as a nation, as individuals? And if they don't match the leadership's, what are our obligations to children, the abused and the at risk? If we learned anything this past year, it's that you can't leave critical decisions in the hands of politicians bent on advancing their careers, satisfying their bases or abiding by some political doctrine any more than we can trust prominent media personalities to treat women with respect.

So whatever our politics, our party, our race or our gender, let's not normalize or make excuses for aberrant behavior or actions by a co-worker, a mentor, minister, movie star or elected leader. Let's resolve in this new year to remember our better selves when things are said and done and decisions are made that go against what we know to be right.

Happy New Year.

EDITORIAL POLICYLetters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immedi-

ately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Some revealing numbers about race and prison

By ISSAC BAILEY

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

ou may know that the crime rate in the U.S. fell rapidly between 2000 and 2015, an extension of a streak that began in the early 1990s. You probably don't know that during that same period, the incarceration rates of black women and black men were also falling —belying the ugly claim that the U.S. needs the highest incarceration rate in the world to keep us safe.

The Marshall Project found that the black male incarceration rate fell by a hefty 24 percent during that period, while the rate for black women was nearly cut in half. Those are encouraging improvements, the kind of news that doesn't get touted enough. One of the most devastating things the U.S. has done to black families in modern times was to so rapidly increase the number of black people being arrested, convicted and sent to prison as part of the unnecessary war on drugs and to attack a too-high crime rate in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The high black incarceration made already-vulnerable families and communities that much more vulnerable. My family was one of those families.

"Black people in this country are imprisoned at more than 5 times the rate of whites; one in 10 black children has a parent behind bars, compared with about one in 60 white kids, according to the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality," the Marshall Project reported.

That means we still have a long way to go to ensure that justice really becomes the focus of the criminal justice system. Too often, it is shaped by fear, revenge, poverty —and race. That must change.

Still, the recent improvements seen at the local, state and federal levels should serve as a reminder to activists that such progress is possible —that there is a reason to keep fighting even when the gains seem frustratingly incremental, not transformational —and to skeptics that the "tough on crime" policies that led to draconian sentencing guidelines is not only unnecessary, but often counterproductive. Even as we were imprisoning fewer people, the country was growing safer. It should not go unnoticed that the crime rate in New York has reached an all-time-low after the discriminatory stop-and-frisk policy was discontinued —precisely the opposite of what many "tough on crime" proponents said would happen. Neither did the still unproven "Ferguson effect" matter there, a city that experienced multiple passionate protests and bitter disagreements between a Democratic mayor and an aggressive police union after high-profile, controversial police killings.

It's not all good news, though. Researchers still don't fully understand why overall crime, or the incarceration rate, dropped so much during this period —or why it goes up and down in still unpredictable ways —which might make it harder to replicate that success. Local-level non-profits, even those not directly designed to reduce crime, have played a previously unacknowledged, significant role in that improvement, as have new policing policies and philosophies. But we've recently seen an uptick in violent crime, including in large cities such as Charlotte, and don't yet know if it is a blip or the beginning of an upward trend.

While the incarceration rate for black men fell by nearly a quarter, it increased slightly for white men and by an unnerving 53 percent for white women as the opioid crisis has taken hold. The gap between black men and white men remains large, but the gap between white and black women has closed to a 2 to 1 ratio from 6 to 1. We want racial disparities to be eliminated by reducing the rate for all, not by increasing the rate for some. We still have a lot of work to do.

Why are huge numbers of Americans preparing for doomsday?

By GORDON DICKSON

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

ORT WORTH, Texas—It's always good advice to hope for the best but prepare for the worst. And Americans apparently are embracing the senti-

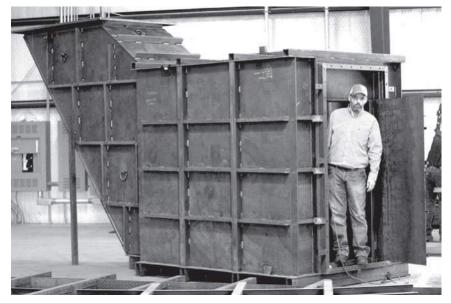
ment behind that old saying—big time.

Two-thirds of Americans (65.5 percent) have stockpiled materials to survive a natural or political disaster. That's among the findings of a survey released last week by Finder.com, which tracks spending habits.

The report cites ongoing tensions between the United States and North Korea, as well as historically severe weather such as the hurricanes that devastated Houston, Puerto Rico and other coastal areas last year as among the reasons for the surging interest in "doomsday prepping."

More than half of respondents said they had bought the supplies during the past month, spending up to \$400.

The research comes about a year after the Fort Worth Star-



Telegram reported that Gary Lynch, whose Rising S Co. south of Dallas manufactures steel bomb shelters, had experienced a 700 percent increase in orders.

And it's not just Cold War survivors who are doomsday prepping.

According to the survey, while a larger portion of baby boomers and Generation Xers are more likely to "always" have survival supplies on hand, millennials are more likely to have bought materials during the past 12 months.

Finder.com's survey was based on interviews with 2,000 Americans conducted by research provider Pureprofile in October.

Gary Lynch with a bomb shelter under construction at Rising S Co. in Fort Worth, Texas, on Jan. 23, 2017.

JOYCE MARSHALL/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The article, "Saipan-da greets Christmas visitors," that was published in your paper tricked my imagination. I rarely pay attention to form or matter about this fictional "Saipan-da" mascot, and asking friends about it seems more mystically confusing with its origin or purpose. On the other hand, what is the Mariana Visitor Authority's fixation in promoting the substance of this fictional character? Saipan-da is not indigenous to the NMI. But, what is astonishing to all this is the connection MVA making between Christmas and Saipan-da.

Christmas is a treasured spiritual tradition. It is celebrated Christmas everyday as well here in the NMI.

every day, including Dec. 25 on the calendar each year. In our prayers, carried out by many of us here in the NMI, we solicit this in our thoughts in saying, "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." We believe that God sent his archangel Gabriel to announce to Mary the good news, that she would conceive and give birth to the Son of Man who would rule Israel or the entire world. Elizabeth, Mary's mother, comforted her, saying, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus." This tells all of us as indigenous NMI people that Christmas is about an everyday event. The Eucharist in the Mass celebrated in all our churches brings the body and blood of christ for our inner spiritual sustenance and good conscience. This is

In this connection, does MVA really has any purpose in its infinite wisdom how the fiction of Saipan-da has anything to do with Christmas that exists 365 days of the Julian calendar? This is a misplaced perspective and frankly does not have any room to be bastardized by a governmental agency. It is plain, blinded perspective. Do you have any clue what Saipan-da is? Commercialism indeed does not do good with our spiritual celebration of Christmas everyday. Unfortunately, MVA mixes formless matter with its fictional concoction of a thing that is not indigenous to the NMI people and cultural core value of these islands.

Francisco R. Agulto Kannat Tabla, Saipan

LITERARY NOOK

Pence Praises Chump - Tweety Twit Trump

By JOSEPH 'PEPE BATBON' CONNELLY

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBLINE

"The trouble with most of us is that we'd rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism."

-Norman Vincent Peale

pawn for Donald Dense. that Trump Cabinet TV performance was the best SNL satire of VP Pence yet. Oh that was real? I thought more fake news from lying media

Vice President Pence wags his tail, paws and grovels at the foot of his doggone boss whose morals he hates the stuff of reality TV shows and pulp political novels Pence praise "every 12 seconds for 3 minutes straight"

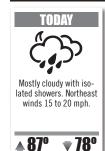
one false media wag posed this acerbic supposition about Trump's support for Judge R. Moore, accused pedophile Pence's thoughts swearing Moore into the Senate position as Moore's hand was placed on the Bible would he smile other cabinet members also gave very high praise for 45 at an increasingly rare recent full Trump Cabinet meeting the Narcissist demagogue's face lit up and became alive as he gloated with glee on hearing each solicitous greeting he got unanimous praise from his entire cabinet girls and guys recall Alexander Pope," praise undeserved is satire in dis-

A satiric sonnet from Santa Senate Clause, a pause for Pence,

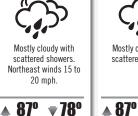
12 THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN









▼77°



▼77°

▲ 87°



▲ 87º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:53 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast with an update of winds with new model data being the only change. Deep-layer moisture will be lacking today and tonight with only isolated showers expected at best. A shear line could be found over the northern CNMI just north of Anatahan. This shear line will progress southward bringing an increase of clouds to the local area. GFS shows it eventually pushing south of Guam by Friday. The shear line will keep skies mostly cloudy skies through Sunday. The shear line may bring brief periods of scattered showers to Guam and Rota Thursday night and Friday. Scattered showers may occur a little earlier across Tinian and Saipan on Thursday as the shear line will be located there at that time. Winds of 10 to 15 mph today and tonight will increase to 10 to 20 mph with 20 to 25 mph possible during the day Friday through Sunday. Another area of high pressure passing to the north will re-enforce the winds, keeping them elevated during the first half of the next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | 4 | ▲ ▼°F |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 84° / 77° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |

| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| AROUND TH | F GLOBE | A ▼°F |
| Auckland | Showers | 73° / 64° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 39° / 19° |
| Hong Kong | Rain | 70° / 64° |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 80° / 70° |
| London | Showers | 50° / 43° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 72° / 54° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 88° / 75° |
| Melbourne | Sunny | 90° / 70° |
| Miami | Sunny | 62° / 45° |
| New York | Snow | 30° / 10° |
| Osaka | Showers | 43° / 37° |
| Paris | Rain | 55° / 45° |
| Busan | Showers | 45° / 28° |
| Rome | Mostly Cloudy | 63° / 52° |
| Salem | Sunny | 40° / 20° |
| San Francisco | Showers | 59° / 51° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 36° / 19° |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 45° / 34° |
| Washington, DC | Windy | 28° / 9° |



Anonymous tips can now be submitted

through the following: ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIP | AN HARBOR TO | DAY FEET |
|-------------|--------------|----------|
| 3:09 AM | LOW TIDE | -0.76 |
| 10:11 AM | HIGH TIDE | 2.12 |
| 3:46 PM | LOW TIDE | 1.12 |
| 8:35 PM | HIGH TIDE | 2.04 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:44 AM | 5:59 PM |
| Friday | 6:44 AM | 6:00 PM |
| Saturday | 6:44 AM | 6:00 PM |
| Sunday | 6:44 AM | 6:01 PM |
| Monday | 6:45 AM | 6:01 PM |
| | | |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 8:28 am | 8:21 pm |
| Friday | - | 9:23 am | 9:21 pm |
| Saturday | - | 10:12 am | 10:19 pm |
| Sunday | - | 10:58 am | 11:13 pm |
| Monday | - | 11:40 am | - |

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

| SAIPAN- | GUAM (GI | JM) | |
|---------|----------|-----------|---------------------|
| | • | • | |
| UA6394 | 4:15am | 5:05am | Daily |
| UA6392 | 8:40am | 9:30am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota |
| | | | , , , |
| UA6390 | 2:20pm | 3:10pm | 2, 3, 6 |
| UA6398 | 6:05pm | 6:55pm | Daily |
| UA6396 | 9:50pm | 10:40pm | Daily |
| 0/10000 | 0.000 | 10. 10 pm | Duny |

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) 2:35pm 3:10pm UA6391 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) 7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7 7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) 2:00am 6:05am Daily 2:10am 6:00am 07626 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 0Z626 2:50am 6:40am LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7 7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily 7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) JD396 7:30am 12:00pm JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am

MU764

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) 1:30am 6:35am

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) 0Z626/701 2:10am 10:55am 1 via ICN 0Z626/701 2:50am 10:55am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA6394/191 4:15am 9:00am 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM UA6394/PR111 4:15am 8:10am 7 via GUM UA6394/PR111 4:15am 9:20am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/183 6:05pm 9:40pm 2, 5 via GUM UA6398/183 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 6:05pm 9:50pm 6:05pm 11:50pm UA6398/193 2, 5 via GUM-ROR

3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) HX077 1:50am 5:15am 0Z626/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN 0Z626/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 5:45am 8:40am 1, 3, 5, 7 U043 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/159 6:05pm 11:00pm

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily 1, 4, 5, 7 UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm UA6390 2. 3. 6 via Rota 12:10pm 1:50pm UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6

UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN 10:30am 3:05pm Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4 7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN 9:30am 3:00pm 7C3402 Daily 7:40pm 1:00am+1 07625 TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily 0Z625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

ID395 8:25am 3:30pm JD395 9:55pm 5:00am+1 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1,5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN 4:25pm 12:30am+1 2, 4, 6 MU763

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN UA182/6395 12:40am 8:05am 3, 6 via GUM UA190/6397 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM 0Z702/625 12:25pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN 07702/625 12:25pm 1:40am+1 PR110/UA6395 10:05pm 8:05am+1 Daily via GUM 2, 5 via ROR-GUM UA192/6395 10:30pm 8:05am+1

10:55pm 8:05am+1

1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

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LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeiu Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily | 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| ROTA TO | SAIPAN | | | 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 **13**

Business

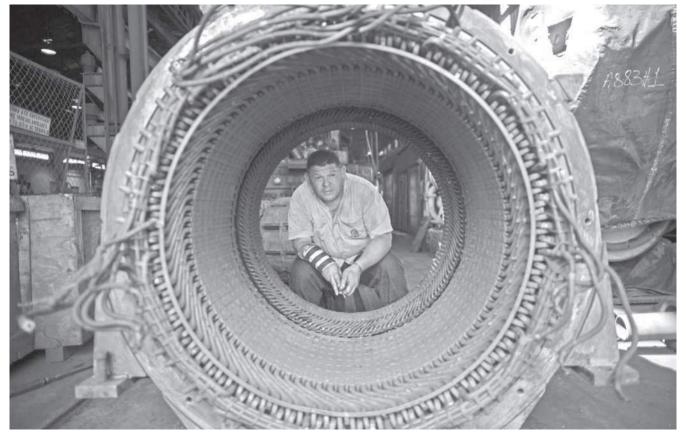
Crisis-wracked Venezuela turns for hope to broken factories

CIUDAD GUAYANA, Venezuela (AP)—Juan Carlos Goite has to be creative, finding spare parts stripped from one broken-down locomotive to repair another in a desperate attempt to keep a oncethriving iron ore mining company running.

Dressed in a hard hat and oil-stained work clothes, the mechanic paces a dimly lit workshop strewn with salvaged train parts like motors, metal plates and hoses looking for the right piece.

In cash-strapped Venezuela, there's no money to buy spare parts. Years of neglect and corrupt management have left in decay Ciudad Guayana, a would-be Pittsburgh carved from the jungles at the edge of the Amazon.

"The machinery that we have, it's worn out," said Juan Arias, Venezuela's minister of industry who was sent by the



Ask if you think you're underpaid

Q: After completing an online salary survey, I realized that I am seriously underpaid. I would apparently need a 14 percent increase to reach the average pay for my position. I was too terrified to mention this during my performance review, and I've now learned that my raise this year will only be 4 percent.

Since finishing college three years ago, I have worked for this company as a software developer. My manager says that I have made a significant contribution to improving our products. As far as I know, the business is doing well, so is it unreasonable to ask him to bring my pay up to average?

A: There is absolutely nothing wrong with asking to be paid appropriately. But before jumping to conclusions based on limited data, you should check the accuracy of your assumptions. If your increase request is based solely on general information from a single source, your manager may quickly dismiss it.

Although online surveys can be useful for broad comparisons, these salary websites vary greatly in the amount and type of data they collect. And even the most comprehensive internet resource cannot predict exactly where you should fall in your company's compensation system. Many local factors will influence that determination.

So before concluding that you are due a 14 percent

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.



pay bump, ask your human resources manager how salaries are determined. Do not inquire about how much your co-workers are making. Simply explain that you would like to understand the decision-making process.

If developer jobs are classified at different pay grades, find out what qualifications cause them to be ranked higher or lower. Ask about the salary range for your own pay grade and determine where you fall. Understanding the rationale for your current salary will help you decide whether to request an increase.

If the above paragraph makes no sense to you, familiarize yourself with compensation terminology before having this conversation. Then, if you continue to believe you are underpaid, screw up your courage and make a logical case for a raise.

Q: My friend was accused of falsifying her time sheet and subsequently terminated. During the investigation, she was instructed by human resources to write a statement describing her offense, then sign it. Was it

unethical for HR to have my friend incriminate herself? And shouldn't she have been advised to consult a lawyer?

A: Although I am not an attorney, I think you may be confusing management processes and legal processes. In the legal system, there are circumstances under which people must be instructed about self-incrimination or obtaining legal counsel. But the management-employee relationship does not operate like the legal system.

Also, you seem to have omitted one key fact – that is, whether your friend was actually guilty of falsifying her time sheet. If so, then management was simply asking her to verify the circumstances that led to her termination. Should she decide to contest her firing, this documentation will provide protection for the company.

But if your friend did not commit this offense, then she should not have signed a statement saying she did. And even though management had no obligation to suggest it, consulting an attorney might have been a wise move. socialist government in Caracas to fix the once-thriving factory town.

Production this year at staterun Sidor, Venezuela's largest steelmaker, is expected to reach barely 20 percent of its peak production, set a decade ago, he said. At its height in 2007, under private ownership, the factory put out more than 4 million tons.

Still, it is eking out more than the year before, raising Arias' hopes of a shifting trend, despite Venezuela's lack of hard currency and U.S. sanctions that officials say are starving factories of the resources they need.

Venezuela sits atop the world's largest oil reserves, but low crude prices and a plunge in production have left it in an economic free fall.

Ciudad Guyana was long seen as the future of Venezuela. U.S. companies in the 1950s zeroed in on Venezuela's vast resources, pouring money into factories for turning iron ore to steel and bauxite for aluminum as well as rails and river ports for shipping it to market. Dams on the Caroni River provided abundant hydropower, while workers from all over the

In this Nov. 1, 2017 photo, Juvenal Rivas works on repairing a locomotive engine part at Ferrominera Orinoco, in Ciudad Guayana, Bolivar state, Venezuela.

country poured into the new city dreamed up by planners from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Nearly two decades ago, President Hugo Chavez came to power and launched his socialist revolution. In 2008 he began putting the factories, then owned by conglomerates from Japan and Argentina, under the state's control. Output steadily eroded even before the oil price crash.

Today, a massive dump truck that loads ore onto trains to be sent to the foundries—a lynchpin in the cycle—runs on a tire so badly worn that strips of rubber tread are missing.

Twisted piles of train cars that used to transport raw iron ore litter a hillside. They derailed when an engineer was travelling too fast on rails left unmaintained.

At Sidor, only two of the four smelting ovens that make steel bars are functioning, and workers who used to operate around the clock put in just one shift a day now, officials said.

"Chavismo ran all of these companies into the ground," said Ricardo Hausmann, a Harvard University economist and former Venezuelan planning minister. "This whole thing has been imploding catastrophically."

Southwest and American to pay bonuses after tax bill

DALLAS (AP)—Airlines are sharing some of their tax-law windfall with employees and Boeing, the big aircraft maker.

American and Southwest said Tuesday that they will pay employees bonuses of \$1,000 each, a gesture that American said would cost \$130 million.

Southwest also said that it exercised options to buy more new jets from Boeing while delaying orders for some others.

Unlike most other U.S. airlines, Dallas-based Southwest has long been profitable and already pays cash income taxes. It earned \$1.6 billion in the first nine months of 2017, and will benefit immediately from the lower rate on corporate income in the tax bill that President Donald Trump signed last month.

Southwest said it expects to record a non-cash credit of between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion in the fourth quarter to reflect the difference in rates between the time the tax expenses were accrued and when they will be paid.

Because of huge losses in previous years, other major U.S. carriers do not pay cash income taxes even though they have become hugely profitable. American, for instance, earned \$1.7 billion in the first nine months of last year. All the airlines should benefit, however, from a provision in the new law that lets businesses more quickly depreciate the cost of investments—aircraft, in their case.

CEO Doug Parker and President Robert Isom said the new tax law will help American in the long run, presumably when it can no longer avoid income taxes by counting past losses. They said the tax changes will give the company more confidence to invest in planes and facilities and pay the employee bonuses.

American said employees at the main airline and its regional affiliates would get their money in the first quarter. Southwest said it will make payments next Monday.

Southwest also announced

that it would exercise options on 40 Boeing 737 jets valued at \$4.5 billion while delaying 23 previous orders with a sticker price of \$2.1 billion by up to five years. Southwest did not disclose financial terms, but airlines routinely get large discounts from list prices.

Southwest also said that it will donate an extra \$5 million to charities in 2018. A spokesman for the company said it paid out more than \$25 million in cash, free tickets and other donations to charity in 2016, the last year for which final figures are available.

In a regulatory filing, Southwest also said it expects to record \$105 million in fourth-quarter expenses because of the moves announced Tuesday and other items, including a legal settlement, which it did not describe. The result will be an increase of about 3.5 percentage points in the company's forecast of so-called unit expenses - the amount per seat that it costs to fly one mile.



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Nation

Trump boasts of bigger 'nuclear button' than N. Korea's

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump boasted Tuesday that he has a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The president's Tuesday evening tweet came in response to Kim's New Year's address, in which he repeated fiery nuclear threats against the United States. He said he has a "nuclear button" on his office desk and warned that "the whole territory of the U.S. is within the range of our nuclear strike.'

Trump mocked that assertion, writing, "Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear

Button, but it is a much bigger North Korean sol-& more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

Earlier Tuesday, Trump sounded open to the possibility of an inter-Korean dialogue after Kim made a rare overture toward South Korea in a New Year's address. But Trump's ambassador to the United Nations insisted talks would not be meaningful unless the North was getting rid of its nuclear weapons.

In a morning tweet, Trump said the U.S.-led campaign of sanctions and other pressure were beginning to have a "big impact" on North Korea. He referred to the recent, dramatic escape of at least two diers across the heavily militarized border into South Korea. He also alluded to Kim's comments Monday that he was willing to send a delegation to the Winter Olympics, Trump which will be hosted

by South Korea next month.

"Soldiers are dangerously fleeing to South Korea. Rocket man now wants to talk to South Korea for first time. Perhaps that is good news, perhaps not-we will see!" Trump said, using his derisive moniker for the young North Korean leader.

In response to Kim's over-



ture, South Korea on Tuesday offered high-level talks on Jan. 9 at the shared border village of Panmunjom to discuss Olympic cooperation and how to improve overall ties.

North Korea did not immediately react to the South's proposal. If there are talks, they would be the first formal dialogue between the Koreas since December 2015. Relations have plunged as the North has accelerated its nuclear and ballistic missile development that now poses a direct threat to America, South Korea's crucial ally.

The U.S. administration, however, voiced suspicions that Kim was seeking to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington. Pyongyang could view a closer relationship with Seoul has a way for reducing its growing international isolation and relief from sanctions that are starting to bite the North's meager economy.

"We won't take any of the talks seriously if they don't do something to ban all nuclear weapons in North Korea," U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told reporters at the United Nations. "We consider this to be a very reckless regime. We don't think we need a Band-Aid, and we don't think we need to smile and take a picture."

While Trump ratcheted up the tension Tuesday night, he doesn't actually have a physical nuclear button.

The process for launching a nuclear strike is secret and complex, and involves the use of a nuclear "football," which is carried by a rotating group of military officers everywhere the president goes and is equipped with communication tools and a book with prepared war plans.

If the president were to order a strike, he would identify himself to military officials at the Pentagon with codes unique to him. Those codes are recorded on a card known as the "biscuit" that is carried by the president at all times.

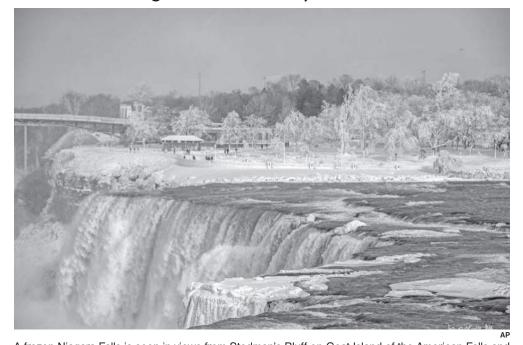
He would then transmit the launch order to the Pentagon and Strategic Command.

North Korea has been punished with unprecedented sanctions at the U.N. over its weapons programs, and Haley warned Tuesday of more measures if the North conducts another missile test.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert did not express opposition Tuesday to South Korea holding talks with North Korea, but voiced deep skepticism about Kim's intentions, saying he may be "trying to drive a wedge of some sort" between the U.S. and its ally, which hosts 28.000 American forces.

South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in has supported Trump's pressure campaign against North Korea, but he's less confrontational than the U.S. president and favors dialogue to ease the North's nuclear threats. Moon has long said he sees the Pyeongchang Olympics as a chance to improve inter-Korean ties.

Cold turns Niagara Falls into icy winter wonderland



A frozen Niagara Falls is seen in views from Stedman's Bluff on Goat Island of the American Falls and Prospect Point beyond

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—Niagara Falls is one place the nation's deep freeze is as much seen as it is felt.

Mist from the surging waters has been freezing instantly on everything it touches, coating trees, walkways, cliffs and overlooks in a dreamy, brilliant white. Visitors hardy enough to withstand the bonechilling cold are treated to snapshots and selfies in a winter wonderland.

"It's outstanding. As cold as it gets, it's a year-round attraction," Paul Tabaczynski said during a visit to see the spectacle on Tuesday. A Buffalo native, he lives in Dallas now but remembered to dress in layers—flannel over a T-shirt and a lined sweatshirt that passes for his winter jacket in Texas.

Although everything around them freezes, the three waterfalls that make up the natural attraction between the United States and Canada continue to flow and churn up the frosty mist. The westerly wind

usually blows it toward the U.S. side, National Weather Service meteorologist Steven Welch said, where the moisture wraps every inch of the landscape in white.

"I can't feel my feet!" 12-yearold Keila Cruz told her father, Jonathan, as she and a dozen other family members thawed out inside the Niagara Falls State Park visitor center during a trip from Deltona, Florida,

"We haven't even gone out yet," Jonathan Cruz said. The family had only come from the parking lot about 200 yards away, but with temperatures in the teens and wind gusting over 40 miles per hour, the group needed a warming break before venturing to the water's edge.

"We're trying to get our feet warm because we're frozen," Jonathan Cruz said.

With a deep freeze stretching from south Texas to Canada and from Montana through New England, the surreal scenes have played out across a wide swath of the U.S.

Fountains froze in Texarkana, Arkansas, New York City's Bryant Park-and even Savannah, Georgia, where January's average high is 60 degrees (16 Celsius). The thermometer read 30 (-1 Celsius) on Tuesday, cold enough for icicles to dangle from the ornate wrought-iron fountain in Forsyth Park.

Chunks of ice floated down the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan made "ice balls" with its rolling waves. As of Monday, ice cover on the Great Lakes was at 19.7 percent, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Forecasters warned of hazardous travel from the southeast to New England through Friday, with the worst expected from the Carolinas to Maine. The bitter cold will linger into the weekend.

Tim Partin of Williamsburg, Kentucky, was in Niagara Falls on business when he decided to take in the scenery.

"It really is pretty," Partin said.

Homeland chief: Wait and see on citizenship for immigrants ficials would dis-

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Trump administration would consider immigration legislation that includes a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young people, the U.S. Homeland Security secretary said Tuesday, while emphasizing no decision on that issue has been made and a border wall remains the priority.

Congress is considering three options, including citizenship or permanent legal status for people who were temporarily shielded from deportation, Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in an interview.

Details on qualifying for citizenship, including on how many years to wait and other requirements, would have to be addressed.

Asked whether the president would support citizenship, she said, "I think he's open to hearing about the different possibilities and what it means but, to my knowledge, there certainly hasn't been any decision from the White House."

In September, Trump said he wouldn't consider citizenship for DACA recipients an Obama-era program that Trump said last year he was ending. He gave Congress until March to deliver a legislative fix.

The options being considered by Congress include permanent residency, residency for a certain amount of timeperhaps three or four years, subject to renewal-and citizenship, Nielsen said.

"It will be interesting to see where (Congress) can get Nielsen comfortable with

what they mean by what is a permanent fix but the idea would be that you move away from a temporary status," she said.

In October, the president congressional presented leaders with a long list of demands to accompany protection for DACA recipient, many of which Democrats greeted with a thud.

The secretary said she was hopeful the White House and Congress can reach a deal that includes border and immigration enforcement measures. She said building a wall along the Mexico border was "first and foremost," and the administration wanted to end "loopholes" on issues that include handling asylum claims and local police working with immigration authorities.

"I remain optimistic. You have to be," Nielsen said. "It's very important. The American people have said they wanted it. I think we should find common ground. The devil's in the detail."

Nielsen said she and other senior administration of-



cuss a potential deal with members of Congress this week, and the president would take it up in a meeting Wednesday with congressional leaders on legislative priorities for 2018.

The secretary spoke hours after the president blasted Democrats for "doing nothing" to protect DACA recipients. Trump tweeted that "DACA activists and Hispanics will go hard against Dems, will start 'falling in love' with Republicans and their President! We are about RESULTS.'

Nielsen, who visited prototypes of Trump's proposed border wall in San Diego, said the president would request \$1.6 billion next year for the barrier, in addition to \$1.6 billion he is seeking this year to build or replace 74 miles (118 kilometers) in California and Texas.

"It's all a down payment," she said. "This is not going to get us the whole wall we need but it's a start."

Trump has met stiff Democratic opposition to the wall, a central campaign pledge. Barriers currently cover 654 miles (1,046 kilometers), or about one-third of the border, much of it built during George W. Bush's presidency.

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Asia

Pakistan fires back after 'incomprehensible' Trump tweet

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan fired back Tuesday after President Donald Trump accused it of harboring terrorists, calling his New Year's Day tweet "completely incomprehensible."

The government summoned the U.S. ambassador to complain but stopped short of demands by protesting Islamic groups to expel the envoy.

The latest round of tit-for-tat attacks between the two reluctant allies, neither of whom trusts the other, was ignited by Trump's tweet on Monday. He said the U.S. had "foolishly" given Pakistan more than \$33 billion in aid in the last 15 years and had gotten nothing in return but "lies & deceit."

He also reiterated longstanding allegations that Pakistan gives "safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan."

A statement issued after a National Security Committee meeting, which was attended by Pakistan's prime minister and the powerful army chief of staff, said the U.S. was scapegoating Pakistan for its own failure to bring peace to Afghanistan after 16 years of war.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have long accused each other of harboring militants, and have exchanged lists of wanted terrorists they want apprehended and returned. Afghanistan has also provided what it says are the locations of mili-



tant camps inside Pakistan.

Pakistan denies supporting militants, pointing to its own war against extremist groups battling to overthrow the government. It blames the burgeoning insurgency in Afghanistan on runaway corruption, infighting that has paralyzed the Kabul government and record drug production. Pakistan says the chaos

next door has spawned a proliferation of insurgent groups, including an Islamic State affiliate that has attacked it from hideouts in Afghanistan.

The National Security Committee statement said Pakistan is among the countries hardest hit by terrorist attacks, having lost thousands of civilians and soldiers to the violence that has convulsed the region since

the Sept. 11 attacks.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters Tuesday to expect more details on specific actions against Pakistan over the next day or two.

"In terms of Pakistan, as I said, our goal is that we know that they can do more to stop terrorism and we want them to do that. That seems pretty simple," she said. "In terms of specific actions, I think you'll see some more details come out on that in next 24 to 48 hours and we'll be sure to keep you guys updated on that front."

Defense analyst and retired Pakistani Gen. Talat Masood said vilifying Pakistan won't bring stability to the region and belittles the losses Pakistan has suffered.

"The people of Pakistan, the government of Pakistan (has)

been really seriously affected and its consequences are felt every day," said Masood. "America needs Pakistan. Without the help of Pakistan, it can never have stability in the region."

Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Wilson Center's South Asia program, said withholding aid to Pakistan is unlikely to deter Pakistani support for insurgents it sees as necessary to protect its security interests. Pakistan has long supported Islamic militants battling India in the disputed Kashmir region, and has close ties to the Afghan Taliban.

"If the US truly had leverage, then one would have expected all the arms and money it's sent to Pakistan over the years to have had happier results for the United States," he said in an email interview. "It would take a

whole lot on the part of Washington, and certainly more than threats and aid cuts, for Pakistan to agree to alter its immutable interests."

The contradictions at the heart of U.S.-Pakistani relations were on display Tuesday, when the Jamaat-ud-Dawa movement held protests in Lahore calling for the expulsion of the U.S. ambassador.

The group is headed by Hafiz Saeed, who also founded the militant group blamed for the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The State Department has offered a \$10 million reward for Saeed, who is wanted on terrorism charges, but he lives openly in Pakistan and frequently appears at public rallies.

Pakistan recently placed Saeed under house arrest for 11 months, but a court released him, citing lack of evidence.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Uneasy neighbors share information on nuclear facilities

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Uneasy neighbors Pakistan and India, who regularly trade gunfire in the disputed Kashmir region, are sticking to a 20-year-old agreement to exchange information on their nuclear installations and facilities. In a statement Tuesday, Pakistan's foreign ministry said the 1988 agreement requires each country to hand over the list on Jan. 1 each year, which the representatives of the two countries did on Monday. It has been adhered to every year since 1992, the statement said. Although neither country is signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), they both became declared nuclear powers after India conducted an underground nuclear weapons test in 1998 and Pakistan followed suit a few weeks later. Pakistan and India have fought three wars since the 1947 creation of Pakistan from a larger India.

Bangladesh court issues arrest warrant for former PM Zia

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A court in eastern Bangladesh issued an arrest warrant Tuesday for former prime minister and opposition leader Khaleda Zia involving an arson attack during an anti-government protest two years ago. Magistrate Joynab Begum issued orders in a packed courtroom in Comilla district against Zia and 48 other opposition activists in the case after a police official pressed charges against them. The official says authorities found Zia and the others responsible for the attack on a bus that killed eight people in 2015. It is unlikely that Zia would be arrested because she often obtains legal protection from the High Court against arrest or harassment. There was no immediate reaction from Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party. A prosecution lawyer said after Tuesday's order was issued that it would ask the court to indict the defendants. Zia faces numerous such cases involving violence. Her party says they are politically motivated, but authorities have rejected the claims.

US soldier killed in combat in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. military says an American soldier has been killed fighting in eastern Afghanistan. A military statement issued Tuesday said four other soldiers were wounded in the Jan. 1 battle in the Achin district of Nangarhar province. It said two of the wounded were in stable condition and the other two have returned to duty. Sen. Cory Booker says the Army had identified the dead soldier as Mihail Golin, of Fort Lee, New Jersey. Gen. John Nicholson, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, says "we are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our own." The United States formally concluded its combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014 but still carries out operations against the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate, both of which are active in Nangarhar.

Seoul: NKorea says it'll reopen cross-border communications SEOUL, South Korea (AP)— month's Winter Olympics

a cross-border communication channel with South Korea, officials in Seoul said, another sign of easing animosity between the rivals after a year that saw the North conduct nuclear bomb and missile tests and both the Koreas and Washington issue threats of war.

The announcement, which came on a North Korean state radio address monitored by Seoul, follows a South Korean offer on Tuesday of high-level talks with North Korea to find ways to cooperate on next

Wednesday that it will reopen leader Kim Jong Un on Monday suggested that the North might send a delegation to the Pyeongchang Games.

> Although the development is a positive sign that the Koreas are working toward improved ties, there's no guarantee that tensions will ease. There have been repeated attempts in recent years by the rivals to talk, and even when they do meet, the efforts often end in recriminations or stalemate. North Korea didn't sav whether it would accept the South Korean offer for talks.

The South Korean Unifica-North Korea announced in the South. North Korean tion Ministry, which monitors North Korea's state media, said the North planned to restore the communication channel at the border village of Panmunjom later Wednesday.

> Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification, made the announcement on Kim Jong Un's behalf, according Seoul's Unification Ministry.

> Ri said North Korea will try to engage with South Korea in a "sincere and careful" manner by "upholding the will of the supreme leader," in a reference to Kim, the ministry said.

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World

Iran protests: Supreme leader blames 'enemies' for meddling

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Breaking his silence over nationwide protests that included calls for his ouster, Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday blamed the demonstrations on "enemies of Iran," saying they were meddling in its internal affairs.

The remarks by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the demonstrations—the largest seen in Iran since its disputed 2009 presidential election—came after a bloody night that saw protesters try to storm a police station and the first deaths among its security forces. The unrest has killed at least 21 people in the past six days.

The protests began Dec. 28 in Mashhad over the weak economy and a jump in food prices. They have since expanded to cities and towns in nearly every province. Hundreds have been arrested, and a prominent judge warned that some could face the death penalty.

Speaking to black-chadorclad women who were relatives of veterans and war dead, the 78-year-old Khamenei warned of an enemy "waiting for an opportunity, for a crack through which it can infiltrate."

"Look at the recent days' incidents," he said. "All those who are at odds with the Islamic Republic have utilized various means, including money, weapons, politics and (the) intelligence apparatus, to create problems for the Islamic system, the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution."

Khamenei avoided identifying any foreign countries, although he promised to elaborate in the coming days. Undoubtedly high on his list is the U.S., where President



This frame grab from video was taken by an individual not employed by the Associated Press and obtained by the AP outside Iran from FreedomMessenger, that describes itself as an "independent Iranian news agency seeking complete change of the Iranian regime by reporting on the human rights situation in Iran," purports to show attack on Iran police station in Qahdarijan, Iran, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018.

Donald Trump has tweeted his support for the protests for several days.

On Tuesday, he wrote that "the people of Iran are finally acting against the brutal and corrupt Iranian regime."

"All of the money that President Obama so foolishly gave them went into terrorism and into their 'pockets,'" Trump wrote, apparently referring to the nuclear deal reached under his predecessor. "The people have little food, big inflation and no human rights. The U.S. is watching!"

It is unclear what effect

Trump's tweets are having on the protests. Iran's state TV reported on his tweets in its news broadcasts, and some people have shared them online, but many in Iran distrust him because he has refused to re-certify the 2015 nuclear deal and his travel bans have blocked Iranians from getting U.S. visas.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi urged Trump to stop tweeting and focus on his own country's problems.

"It is better for him to try to address the U.S." internal issues like the murder of scores killed on a daily basis in the United States during armed clashes and shootings, as well as millions of the homeless and hungry people in the country," Ghasemi said, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

The U.S. government called for the U.N. Security Council and U.N. Human Rights Council to hold emergency meetings on Iran, with the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations saying the world body "must speak" on the issue.

"Nowhere is the urgency of peace, security and freedom being tested more than in Iran," U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said, adding that U.S. officials "applaud the tremendous courage of the Iranian people."

Haley said the U.S. would be calling for emergency sessions in the coming days. Ambassador Kairat Umarov of Kazakhstan, whose country currently holds the Security Council presidency, said the requested meeting was under discussion but not yet scheduled.

Khamenei, who has final say over all state matters, has blamed foreign adversaries for domestic unrest in the past. In 2009, as Green Movement demonstrations rattled his government, he said the post-election unrest was calculated by Iran's enemies "whether or not its leaders know."

But that's not to say Iran doesn't face foreign adversaries. Gulf Arab nations have been watching the protests carefully, with Saudi-funded satellite channels in particular playing up the unrest. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, long a foe, has praised the protesters.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the exiled opposition group known as the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq was inciting the violence. According to his website, Rouhani spoke by telephone with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, and urged France to stop hosting the group, known as the MEK, which fled after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The protests began over the economy, which has improved since the nuclear deal that saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the end of some international sanctions. Tehran now sells its oil on the global market and has signed deals to purchase tens of billions of dollars' worth of Western aircraft.

Trump threatens to cut off US aid to Palestinian Authority

WASHINGTON (AP)—Acknowledging his push to broker peace in the Middle East has stalled, President Donald Trump on Tuesday appeared to threaten to cut off U.S. aid money to the Palestinian Authority, asking why the U.S. should make "any of these massive future payments" when the Palestinians are "no longer willing to talk peace."

Trump, in a pair of tweets, said the U.S. pays "the Palestinians HUNDRED OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS a year and get no appreciation or respect."

"They don't even want to negotiate a long overdue ... peace treaty with Israel," he wrote.

Trump infuriated Palestinians and Muslims across the Middle East when he announced late last year that the U.S. would consider Jerusalem the capital of Israel and move its embassy there, upending decades of U.S. policy and igniting protests.

While the Palestinians haven't closed the door to a potential deal with Israel, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said the announcement had destroyed Trump's credibility as a Mideast peace broker, calling the decision "a declaration of withdrawal from the role it has played in the peace process."

Tuesday's tweets mark a tacit admission by Trump that his decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has thrown a wrench into his administration's plans to restart the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians, which he had dubbed "the ultimate deal."

Trump tasked son-in-law Jared Kushner to restart the effort, and brought his former attorney, Jason Greenblatt, into the White House to lead the negotiations. Trump's Mideast peace team had held meetings with Israeli, Pales-

tinian and Arab leaders for nearly a year ahead of an expected peace proposal.

But by recognizing Israel's claim to Jerusalem, Trump was seen by the Palestinians as siding with Israel on the most sensitive issue in the conflict. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem—which Israel captured in 1967—for their capital.

Trump said his decision merely recognized the reality that Jerusalem already serves as Israel's capital and wasn't meant to prejudge the final borders of the city.

In his tweets, Trump argued his decision had taken "Jerusalem, the toughest part of the negotiation, off the table, but Israel, for that, would have had to pay more."

When Trump declared Jerusalem to be Israel's capital, he insisted, counterintuitively, that the move would improve, not hurt, prospects for clinching a peace deal.

Former child soldiers help Uganda's rebel abductees heal

GULU, Uganda (AP)—A brutal rebellion by the Lord's Resistance Army brought years of suffering to northern Uganda. Tens of thousands of children were abducted, their childhoods lost and communities broken.

Now that the fighting is over, a group of former child soldiers is helping some heal through music therapy.

At a recent talent show they organized, a woman dropped to the ground, howling, as four young boys carried a coffin. Behind her, a chorus of women chanted "The war has touched us, it makes us sad."

The Youth Leaders for Restoration and Development group was formed last year by two former child soldiers with support from the Chicago-based Goldin institute and Tokyo-based Arigatou International.

It has brought together 240 people, more than half of them former LRA captives, to compose songs and plays based on their experiences.

The rebel group, led by one of Africa's most-wanted warlords, Joseph Kony, terrorized the region during the 1990s and early 2000s. Early support for the rebellion against the government withered as the group's brutal tactics became clear.

For years the LRA killed, tortured, maimed, raped and abducted tens of thousands of civilians. Of those seized, more than 25,000 were children, according to the U.N. children's agency.

Children were preferred because they were easier to control and indoctrinate into believing in Kony's alleged supernatural powers.

The children, especially the boys, were forced to be LRA fighters. The girls became "bush wives."

For the people of Acholiland, the scars run deep.

The inadequate response by government and aid groups during and after the conflict left many former child abductees with serious trauma, said Collins Kisembo, project manager for YOLRED's music therapy program.

Many are withdrawn, isolated, filled with anger. Where words fail them, music has helped.

"You realize that somebody now is trying to speak the message in himself," said Kisembo, who trained as a psychologist after working in a local school.

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Environment

Scientists search for survivors after the Thomas fire scorches a condor sanctuary

By LOUIS SAHAGUN LOS ANGELES TIMES

FILLMORE, Calif.—

Pushed by instinct and age, a fledgling California condor had been expected to step to the edge of its cliff-side cave sometime in December and make its first flight over the scrubby terrain of the Los Padres Sespe Condor Sanctuary.

But then the Thomas fire broke out.

The blaze ripped across Los Padres National Forest and into the 53,000-acre sanctuary, where 80 of the state's 172 free-flying condors spend much of their time.

On Dec. 15, the 11th day of the fire, scientists lost contact with a radio transmitter attached to the turkey-size chick known as No. 871 as flames raced toward its closet-size cave. Days later a biologist chaperoned by a strike team from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection picked up a faint ping with an uneven tempo coming from the vicinity of the condor's nest, but the findings were inconclusive.

At sunrise Wednesday, a team of biologists armed with telemetry equipment fanned out across charred wilderness that had been closed for weeks northeast of the community of Fillmore on a mission to pick up signals that could, perhaps, lead them to the 4-month-old condor, or its carcass.

With a 9 1/2-foot wingspan, the federally endangered California condor is the largest scavenging bird in the nation and a symbol of both a species on the brink of extinction and successful, yet still precarious, efforts to restore imperiled populations.

The biologists tried to remain optimistic. The young bird and its parents — No. 513 and No. 206 - were descendants of a species that has survived since the Pleistocene Age of a million years ago.

But as the Thomas fire grew to become the biggest in California history, there was reason for concern.

Before barging through dense, thorny brush with a telemetry antenna held high, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Joseph Brandt took stock of a worrisome scene on the far side of a scorched canyon overlooking Sespe Creek. Peering through binoculars, he saw splotches of red fire retardant on nearby ridgelines and a few smoldering hot spots. "The fire burned right up to the entrance of the condor cave," he said.



Joseph Brandt uses telemetry equipment in his search for a condor in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. ash from a fire become too intense, scientists say.

The mission quickly took on two goals: Find the chick and, if possible, find her par-

The team of trackers split into two groups, each tramping down trails in the wilderness set aside for endangered species including condors, arroyo toads, red-legged frogs and steelhead trout.

Condors have been in jeopardy since the 1950s, when development began to encroach on the species' habitat, and the now-banned pesticide DDT made condor eggshells so thin they often could not support life.

Some of the huge birds were shot or died of lead poisoning when they fed upon the carcasses of other animals killed with lead shot and bullets.

Scientists began recovery efforts by capturing the few remaining wild condors, breeding them in captivity and releasing the birds in their historical range. Today, the population worldwide is 485.

Some of them soar over Ventura County, the Grand Canyon, the Sierra Nevada foothills and Baja California. For the first time in nearly four decades, condors are roosting about 40 miles west of Yosemite National Park.

Others are in captive breeding programs. Condors born and bred in captivity and released into the wild must frequently be trapped, and then tested and treated for lead poisoning.

At 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, the biologists' handheld radios crackled with evidence that was testament to what hard work, passion and the resiliency of nature can accomplish. It was the beacon of the mother and father, picked up by Sealfaith as she stood by a cliff edge.

In the distance, she saw the birds.

"They're circling over the nest in search of their chick," she said over the radio.

"Great news," Brandt said. "In about five years, 871 will be teaching her own offspring to soar."

It would not be the first time geographically isolated condors were wiped out in severely burned areas. Wildfires have killed he lives of seven condors that were part of the federal recovery effort since 1992, Brandt said. "Nearly all of them burned up when fire roared through their roosting areas at night."

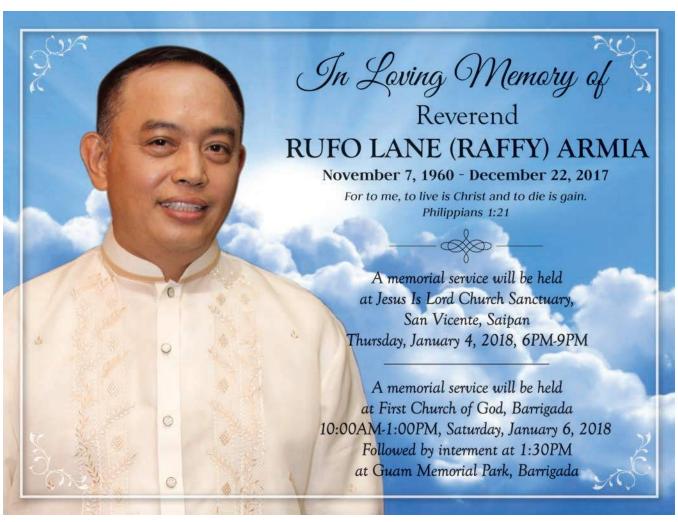
As he spoke, Nadya Sealfaith, a condor technician at the Santa Barbara Zoo, detected good news with a handheld antenna.

"I've got a strong signal and it's from 871," she said. "It's coming from the canyon bottom north of the cave. So, she's alive and moving."

The question was whether she would stay that way.

Fledgling condors typically don't get very far - and often crash land — on their first flights, Brandt said, leaving them vulnerable to predators. They also rely on their parents for a year or longer to find and bring back food.

And though adult condors are protective, they might abandon a chick if smoke and



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Life & Style

Logan Paul makes more extensive apology for suicide video

By YURI KAGEYAMA ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Logan Paul has issued a more extensive apology for posting a You-Tube video showing what appeared to be a body in a Japanese forest known as a suicide destination.

The initial video he posted Sunday showed the prolific social media user trekking with friends in the Aokigahara forest near Mount Fuji. He seems aware the forest is sometimes chosen for suicides but is surprised to see what appears to be a body hanging from a tree.

eo was viewed some 6 million times before being removed from Paul's YouTube channel, a verified account with more than 15 million subscribers. Segments of the video were still appearing online Wednesday.

A storm of criticism followed, with commenters saying Paul seemed joking and disrespectful in the video and that his initial apology was inadequate.

"I don't expect to be forgiven. I'm simply here to apologize," he said on the more somber video apology uploaded on YouTube and raise awareness about sui-

of us knew how to react or how to feel."

Paul said he wanted to apologize to the internet, to all who saw the video and to those suffering mental illness and depression. "Most importantly, I want to apologize to the victim and his family."

YouTube said it prohibits violent content posted in a sensational or disrespectful manner. Its statement says, "Our hearts go out to the family of the person featured in the video."

In Paul's initial apology, he said he had wanted to

Media reports say the vid- Twitter late Tuesday. "None cide and possibly save lives, prevention groups, Schiffer big giant mistake and shake and he denied his goal was to drive clicks to his social media content.

"I thought I could make a positive ripple on the internet, not cause a monsoon of negativity," he said in his Twitter post.

Paul's credibility has nosedived and more talk is not the recommended route for damage control, says branding expert Eric Schiffer, chairman of Reputation Management Consultants, who advises celebrities, executives and media.

Paul should instead "show through action," volunteering his time and money to suicide said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

"From a branding perspective, he is going to pay a big price," he said.

"This is going down as a

the soul of many digital influencers like him that will have to think very carefully as to what they put out to the public before they go ahead and push upload."

Mike Tyson breaks ground on California marijuana ranch

lif. (AP) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Ty-

son is becoming a California marijuana entrepreneur.

TheBlast.com reports that Tyson and partners on Dec. 20 broke ground on a plot for a cannabis resort in California Tyson City, a remote Mo-

jave Desert town that's about income for residents. a 110-mile (177-kilometer) drive north of Los Angeles.

Partner Robert Hickman tells the website that the undeveloped lands are primed to

CALIFORNIA CITY, Ca- be cultivated and that Tyson Ranch will be an oasis.

In a video of the event, Cali-

fornia City Mayor Jennifer Wood thanks Tyson for his commitment to the community, saying the industry will provide medical marijuana to people in need, revenue, jobs and

Calls and emails from The Associated Press to a Tyson representative and the mayor were not immediately returned Tuesday.

Versace's former mansion now a luxury hotel in Miami Beach

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Viewers intrigued by the Gianni Versace murder case featured in the new season of "American Crime Story" can retrace the fashion designer's steps at his former mansion in South Beach.

Tourists stop on its stone front steps every day to pose for pictures where Versace was fatally shot by serial killer Andrew Cunanan in 1997. There's more to the Mediterranean-style mansion than Versace's death, however.

Now a boutique hotel, The Villa Casa Casuarina, Versace's former home still reflects his glamorous designs and opulent lifestyle. Visitors can swim in the pool he lined with 24-karat gold tiles, sleep on double-king-sized beds so large they require custommade sheets, gaze at the ocean from his rooftop observatory and dine in a gourmet restaurant established in his former dining room.

A resident artist maintains the mosaics and frescos that Versace had made for the property, including designs showcasing his signature snake-haired Medusa head, said Chauncey Copeland, the hotel's general manager.

"We actually have preserved what Versace created here and just augmented it with some modern touches for the convenience of our hotel guests and restaurant patrons,"

Copeland said.

Versace spent \$33 million renovating the three-story building he purchased in 1992. It was originally an apartment complex built in 1930 by Standard Oil heir Alden Freeman. After Versace's death, his family sold the property. The Villa Casa Casuarina now is part of the Victor Hotels group, which acquired the mansion at a 2013 auction for \$41.5 million.

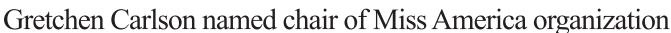
The opportunity to sleep in Versace's former bedroom stands out among other luxury hotel experiences, even in glitzy South Beach, said Joey Cargill, of Manila, the Philippines, a hotel guest relaxing in the pool just after Christmas.

"It's just the history, and Versace was an artist, and I kind of consider myself a little bit of an artist. Maybe I can grasp a little bit of that, in a different fashion," Cargill said.

To live like Versace is to live large, transforming the most ordinary things into outrageous memories. "I can't even hit all sides of the bed, it's so big. I just take a corner of it," Cargill said.

"The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American premieres Crime Story" Jan. 17 on FX.

The cast and crew spent about a month filming at the hotel, Copeland said. "It's really striking just how accurate they are," he said.





n this Oct. 17, 2017, file photo, Gretchen Carlson participates in the BUILD Speaker Series to discuss her book "Be Fierce: Stop Harassment and Take Back Your Power" at AOL Studios in New York.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Former Fox News Channel anchor and 1989 Miss America Gretchen Carlson was named chairwoman The organization also anof the Miss America Organization's board of directors Monday, and three other past pageant winners will join her on the board.

The new leadership comes less than two weeks after leaked emails surfaced showing CEO Sam Haskell and others disparaging the appearance, intellect and sex lives of former Miss Americas. Haskell resigned Dec. 23, along with two other top leaders.

The selection of Carlson

marks the first time a former pageant winner has served as the leader of the nearly 100-year-old organization. nounced the appointments of three other past Miss Americas: 2012 winner Laura Kaeppeler Fleiss, 2000 winner Heather French Henry and Kate Shindle, who won in 1998 and now serves as president of the Actors' Equity Association. Their appointments take effect immediately, as does Carlson's.

"Everyone has been stunned by the events of the last several days, and this has not been easy for anyone who loves this program," Carlson said in a

statement issued by the Miss America Organization. "In the end, we all want a strong, relevant Miss America and we appreciate the existing board taking the steps necessary to quickly begin stabilizing the organization for the future."

Carlson said she and the new board would immediately work with all Miss America stakeholders, including the organization's state executive directors and former state titleholders, "to continue an ongoing inclusive and transparent process to identify additional new board members and management."

The new board also looks forward to working with the organization's many sponsors, "seeking input while creating a viable, forwardlooking Miss America Organization for this and future generations of young women," Carlson said.

In the emails published last month by the Huffington Post, pageant officials ridiculed the appearance, intellect and sex lives of former Miss Americas. One email used a vulgar term for female genitalia to refer to past Miss America winners, another included a wish that a particular former Miss America had died and others speculated about the number of sex partners former Miss America Mallory Hagan has had.

Witherspoon, Rhimes among founders of anti-harassment group

NEW YORK (AP) — Reese Witherspoon, Shonda Rhimes and Jennifer Aniston are among hundreds of Hollywood women who have formed an anti-harassment coalition called Time's Up.

The initiative (www.timesupnow.com) was launched Monday with an open letter vowing support for women in the entertainment business and beyond,

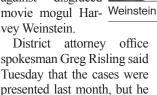
from janitors to health care workers. Time's Up will include a legal defense fund and will advocate for legislation combatting workplace harassment.

Time's Up also is backing the movement for women to wear black, in solidarity with those who have been sexually harassed, at Sunday's Golden Globes ceremony.

Donators to Time's Up de-

Los Angeles DA reviewing two cases against Harvey Weinstein

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Los Angeles prosecutors are reviewing two cases brought by the Beverly Hills Police Department against disgraced vey Weinstein.



didn't offer other details. Dozens of women have accused Weinstein of sexual harassment and assault. Those allegations rippled across the entertainment industry, other media business-



es, sports and politics and unleashed a flood of sexual misconduct complaints that have upended several careers.

Police in Los Angeles, New York and London are also investigating accusations against Weinstein.

The Beverly Hill cases are being reviewed by a task force District Attorney Jackie Lacey established to handle any criminal complaints arising from the Hollywood

Representatives for Weinstein have denied all accusations of non-consensual sex.

Singer Carrie Underwood also injured her face in fall

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Country singer Carrie Underwood is bringing in 2018 by sharing more details about more injuries that she suffered after a fall that broke her wrist.

In a blog post to fans on New Year's Day Underwood says she sustained a facial injury that required 40-50 stitches and that she's "not quite looking the same.'

She says that she is grate-

ful the injuries weren't much worse and for the people who have helped her since the November accident. She also cautioned fans that she might not look the same when she's ready to be seen on camera again.

"I'm hoping that, by then, the differences are minimal, but, again, I just don't know how it's all going to end up."

Underwood also says she'll be in the studio next week.

fense fund range from Meryl Abrams and Viola Davis. Streep and Taylor Swift to J.J.

harassment and assault allega-Dozens of men have faced tions in recent months, includ-

ing Harvey Weinstein, Charlie Rose and Kevin Spacey.



This combination of file photos show actresses Reese Witherspoon at the 69th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, left, Jennifer Aniston at a screening of "Office Christmas Party" in New York and Shonda Rhimes at the 2015 Human Rights Campaign Gala Dinner in Los Angeles.

NBC names Hoda Kotb as Lauer replacement on 'Today'

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC News opened the new year Tuesday by appointing Hoda Kotb as co-anchor of the "Today" show's first two hours with Savannah Guthrie, replacing Matt Lauer following his firing on sexual misconduct charges in late November.

Kotb, 53, will continue to co-host the show's fourth hour with Kathie Lee Gifford.

It will be the first all-female

the show's 65-year history. Diane Sawyer and Robin Roberts blazed that path for ABC's "Good Morning America" in the 2000s, but morning shows have traditionally paired a man and a woman as host. With an audience dominated by women in an era where news of badly behaving men is frequent, the Guthrie-Kotb pairing may be particularly timely.

"Today" won't be an all-fe-

ever, with longtime weather forecaster Al Roker and correspondent Carson Daly as regulars. Megyn Kelly hosts the show's third hour. "This has to be the most

popular decision NBC News has ever made and I am so thrilled," Guthrie said on Tuesday, announcing the appointment on the air.

"I am pinching myself," said a beaming Kotb, sitting team headlining "Today" in male zone in its first half, how- beside her. "I think we should

send some medics to Alexandria, Virginia, where my mom has likely fainted."

Lauer's eventual replacement had long been the subject of internal angst but with a sudden decision forced upon the network, Kotb's performance made it easier. She's subbed for Lauer since the day he was fired and "Today" has won four straight weeks in the ratings, after having spent much of the past few years in second behind ABC.

Ex-boxer Vinny Paz accused of beating up, biting man

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)— Retired boxing champion Vinny Paz, whose comeback story after a car crash was dramatized in the 2016 film "Bleed for This," has been accused of attacking a Rhode Island man and sending him to the hospital.

The 55-year-old former champ said he had been

robbed and did what he had to do.

Providence police said they were called to a home early Tuesday morning. When officers arrived, witnesses told them Paz had accused a friend of stealing \$16,000 and then assaulted him.

The man was taken to the hospital with injuries including several broken teeth, a black eye and bite marks that drew blood. Witnesses told police that Paz left before police got there.

Police issued an arrest warrant for Paz on one count of felony assault later Tuesday.

The ex-champion made a series of statements on Twitter and to a local TV station on Tuesday, telling people to "stop" with the nonsense story and defending his actions.

"Bottom line is, I got robbed. And when that happens, you gotta do what you gotta do," he said in a brief interview with WPRI-TV outside his home in Warwick, before getting into an SUV and being driven away.

Ride in vintage car makes passenger fear for her life

EAR ABBY: Recently a friend came over and took me to lunch. She has a small, 50-year-old vintage car that was very popular in the '60s. She had come from Marin County over the Golden Gate Bridge

As she drove us to the restaurant, her car stalled twice. It was very underpowered and, in my opinion, rickety. After she dropped me home, I sent her an email strongly expressing my concern that she is driving an unsafe car. I was worried for her safety. She took offense, so I apologized.

She has plenty of money to buy a safe used car like anyone else, but she says, "I like driving vintage." I don't want to get into her car again. Was I wrong to tell her I felt her car was unsafe?

NERVOUS PASSENGER IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR PASSENGER: You weren't wrong to warn her. However, you may have been wrong to assume that she has "plenty of money to buy a safe used car." Nobody has as much money as others assume they do. Because you don't want to get into her car again, you should provide the transportation from now on or meet her at the restaurant.

DEAR ABBY: My across-the-street neighbor and I have become friendly. She has a 15-month-old and a newborn. Not only is she not married to the baby's daddy, but they don't even live together.

She has been asking me to help her a lot now that the baby is born. I'm 10 years older and raising three kids, all in their teens. Abby, I don't want to raise anyone else's kids. How

can I politely tell her that I have my own family to care for? She has a tendency to overreact.

KEEPING DISTANCE

DEAR KEEPING DISTANCE: To tell your neighbor you "don't want to raise anyone else's kids" may be accurate, but it's a bit rough. When she asks you to do things for her, be pleasant and say -- consistently—that you are busy, you don't have time, you have other plans, etc. If you do, she will soon realize that you are not to be depended upon.

DEAR ABBY: My son has lived overseas on and off for six years. He's being married to a wonderful young woman where they met, which was in Wales. Needless to say, not everyone can attend, so we are having a reception for them here in the States.

My son already has a fully furnished house overseas and doesn't need anything, plus the cost of taking gifts back would be astronomical! Anyway, he is thinking of asking for monetary help with the honeymoon. Would this be all right to do

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



and, if so, how do you ask people for it?

HELP FOR THE HONEYMOON

DEAR HELP: Many young people today post requests like that on their wedding website. Or, because friends and relatives may ask what they need after receiving invitations or announcements, the message can be conveyed verbally. According to the rules of etiquette, however, requests for gifts or money should NEVER be included WITH the invitations or announcements.

Good advice for everyone - teens to seniors - is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby. Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

ITS FREEZING IN THIS HOUSE! SOMEBODY CRANK UP THE THERMOSTAT! WHY







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Garfield_®







By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis

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By Bryan Basset

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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STUMPED?

or answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King. Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dot-Marie Jones, 54; Dave Foley, 55; Michael Stipe, 58: Patty Loveless, 61.

Happy Birthday: Do what's best for you. Don't feel the need to make hasty decisions just because someone else does. Let your talents rise to the surface and lead you down a path that you find exciting and satisfying. Be open to suggestions, but don't let anyone make choices for you. Put more effort into whatever will benefit you the most. Your numbers are 2, 13, 22, 26, 34, 41, 44.

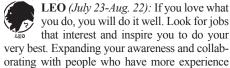
ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll come up with some interesting ideas and solutions to problems you've been facing. Research and learn all you can before putting your plans into motion. Start small and work your way toward a better life and a

healthier future. OOOOO TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A good deal will be difficult to resist. Consider

any consequences you might suffer if you move forward without first getting the go-ahead. Time-sensitive matters will leave you questioning the best way to move forward without upsetting anyone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make positive changes at home if you discuss your intentions with someone who will be affected by the choices you make. Getting the help and support you want will make your life easier. A partnership is apparent.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change in the way you offer your services to others or deal with your peers will encourage you to get more in return. Hard work will pay off. Set your sights high and don't stop until you reach your goal. 200



may not be welcome, but it will be educational. Use your intelligence and do whatever it takes to make whatever is going on around you work to your benefit. It's how you

like being generous and helping others, but when it comes to how you handle your cash, it is best to be frugal. Offer hands-on assistance or worthwhile suggestions that will encour-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Protect your reputation, position and status. Use your intelligence and common sense to keep heading down the right path. A wellthought-out strategy will encourage you to stick

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Check out what everyone else is doing and consider your options. Past experi-

can be positive, and short trips and networking will pay off. 🛇 🗘 🗘

than you will be enlightening. ••• VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change

handle situations that will count the most. $\bullet \bullet \bullet$ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may feel

age others to do what needs to be done.

to a budget and avoid risky ventures. 🗪

ences will spare you from making a mistake when dealing with emotional matters. Change EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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dulgent behavior.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful how you spend your money. Don't get involved in joint ventures or donate money because you are made to feel guilty. Keep your cash, possessions and personal information locked up somewhere safe. Avoid in-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Partnerships look promising. Discuss your position and your intentions. Focus on positive changes and offer intellectual alternatives. You have much to gain if you use common sense

to make your point. Be bold and take action. Oct

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A change to the way you do business or treat peers will be questioned if you aren't accommodating. Explain your reasons for taking a different approach. Changes can be good if they are planned carefully.

Birthday Baby: You are playful, entertaining and generous. You are sensitive and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
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Wonderword OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each latter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD. CARPOOL KARAOKE' (TV SERIES) Solution: 11 letter

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@ 2018 Andrews McMeel Syndication - www.wonderv

Adele, Apple. Audra, Azalea, Bakeries. Britney. Broadway, Cameo, Carpool, Cars, Cena. Christmas, Clooney, Conversation. Dance. Derulo, Driving, Duets, Funny, George. Gordon, Gwen, Iggy, Jason, John, Jones, Julia, Lady Gaga, Legend. Madonna, Mashup, Metallica, Nick, Pair, Ride, Roberts, Rod, Sia, Singalong. Songs, Spears, Stefani, Stewart, Stops Yesterday's Answer: Forcasts

o purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 **23**

CLASSIFIED ADS

PC Bargain Corporation is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate

Must have an associate degree in college preferably in Business and Marketing Management with at least 5 years work-related experience in Sales and Marketing with emphasis on sales strategies, revenue management, and with experience in inventory control and management. Proficient in the use of software programs such as but not limited to MS Word and Excel software and Peachtree Inventory System. Sales Associate must possess experience primarily in the given fields, must be a dynamic team player and be able to strategically project the business operation and reporting. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be submitted at PC Bargain Corporation located on the Ground Floor, Tun Kiku's Building at Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, January 5, 2018.

PC Bargain Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)

High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Sales Associate (5)

High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Inventory Planner (1)

High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards, with or without using a trolley, and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to drive Company provided vehicles. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than 5:00PM on January 10, 2018. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures Inc. dba Saipan Adventures invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Tour Sales Representative (2)

High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferred Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Accounting Assistant (2)

High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent (2)

High School Diploma or GED with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor (3)

High School Diploma or GED. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

To be considered, applications must be submitted <u>not later than 5:00 PM on January 10, 2018.</u> Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures Inc. Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Arriola, Cowan & Arriola

seeks an associate attorney who is an active member in good standing with the Guam Bar. Applicants must possess excellent research and writing skills, superior communication and organizational skills, and a strong commitment to client services.

Please email a letter of interest and resume to: arriolalaw@arriolacowan.com

Century Tours Inc. dba Century Tours invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Operations Manager, Tours (1)

College or Associate's degree in Management, Travel and Tour or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in tour and travel operations is required. Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages is preferred. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Operations Manager, Retail (1)

High School Diploma or a GED. At least two (2) years of prior related supervisory or managerial experience in a retail environment. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Business Development Director (1)

Bachelor's degree in Management, Travel and Tour, or any related field. Fluency in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages is preferred as incumbent must be able and willing to travel between China and Saipan to serve as a liaison. Must be able and willing to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

Accountant (3

High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Tour Sales Representative (17)

High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferred Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Accounting Assistant (2)

High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent (4)

High School Diploma or GED with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor (2)

High School Diploma or GED. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Inventory Assistant (2)

High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate, full-time (5)

High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Sales Associate, part-time (4)

High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than 5:00 PM on January 10, 2018. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours Inc. Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

WHATZIT Solution: Eggs on toast

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

| ADS | | COMBO |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| | (PRINT) | (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
| • 3-Liner | \$15 | \$30 |
| 5-Liner | \$24 | \$45 |

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



name in this arrangement of letters.



d section

Find today's solution in classified section

Patriots end regular season at No. 1 in poll



Brady and the England New Patriots ended

the regular season where they started it.

Being chased by the rest of the NFL.

The Patriots finished the regular season as the No. 1 team in the final AP Pro32 poll on Tuesday, receiving 11 of 12 first-place votes for 381 points in balloting by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

The Patriots (13-3), tied for the best record in the NFL, will have home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

"Can we skip straight to the AFC championship game? I can't wait." said Charean Williams of Pro Football Talk.

"It could prove a better matchup than the Super Bowl."

The Minnesota Vikings (13-3), who were tied with the Pittsburgh Steelers last week, remained at No. 2 with 367 points. The Vikings, who received the remaining first-place vote, have the No. 2 seed in the NFC and have a chance to stay at home throughout the playoffs, including the Super Bowl which will be held at U.S. Bank Stadium on Feb. 4.

'What a remarkable job by coach Mike Zimmer, who wins the NFC North going away with backup Case Keenum and now takes aim at becoming the first team in NFL history to play a Super Bowl in its home stadium," Newsday's Bob Glauber said.

The Steelers (13-3) slipped a spot to No. 3 in the poll with 365 points and will open the playoffs at home on Jan. 14 in the divisional round.

"Need (Antonio) Brown for the playoffs," Fox Sports' John Czarnecki said of the Steelers star wide receiver who left the loss to the Patriots on Dec. 17 with a calf injury.

The Los Angeles Rams and the Philadelphia Eagles switched places. The Rams moved to No. 4 and the Eagles



(13-3) slipped to No. 5.

"The question hanging over the city of Philadelphia right now: Will Nick Foles be enough?" asked Jenny Vrentas of The Monday Morning Quarterback. "The last two performances of the regular season were uninspiring, but the Eagles have two weeks to regroup and come up with a game plan to win at home without Carson Wentz."

The New Orleans Saints and Carolina Panthers, who

will meet Sunday afternoon in the Superdome in the final game of wild-card weekend. remained at No. 6 and 7 respectively.

"The Saints will be hard to beat in the Superdome with that running game," said John Clayton of 710-ESPN Seattle.

The Kansas City Chiefs and Atlanta Falcons each moved up a spot to No. 8 and 9 respectively.

The Jacksonville Jaguars slipped two spots to No. 10 after losing to the Tennessee Titans, who jumped four spots to No. 11.

The Buffalo Bills, who ended the league's longest streak of consecutive seasons without a postseason appearance when Andy Dalton and the Bengals stunned the Baltimore Ravens 31-27, gained two spots to finish tied with the Los Angeles Chargers at No. 12.

"After ending a 17-year playoff drought, the resourceful Bills travel to Jacksonville feeling giddy and carefree," said Ira Kaufman of SB Nation Radio.

Meanwhile, coach Marvin Lewis got a two-year contract extension Tuesday, providing more chances to try to get the Cincinnati Bengals that playoff victory that has eluded him for 15 seasons.

The agreement came after a second straight losing season and two days of discussions with owner Mike

New England Patriots wide receiver Brandin Cooks (14) reaches in for a catch between New York Jets safeties Jamal Adams (33) and Marcus Maye (26) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

Brown. Lewis has the second-longest active coaching tenure in the NFL, behind Bill Belichick's 18 seasons with New England.

Unlike Belichick, who has won five Super Bowls and made two other appearances in the title game, Lewis is 0-7 in the playoffs, the worst coaching record in NFL history. The Bengals haven't won a playoff game since the 1990 season, the sixthlongest streak of futility in league history.

Paul Brown Stadium was half-empty for the final home game, an indication fans had given up on the team and were hoping for change.

Instead, Brown decided to stay the course and keep Lewis, who wanted more say over the coaching staff and the roster if he staved.

Brown's aversion to change won out.

"Marvin has made significant contributions during his time here," Brown said in a statement.

Lewis planned to meet the media on Wednesday. He said in a statement that he was committed "to making the necessary improvements to put this team in the best position to win."

Lewis has acknowledged that he would have been fired in any other NFL city. Instead, he's gotten second and third chances-and now a 16th chance—to lead the Bengals to a postseason win. Brown, an owner who values loyalty, has decided to keep Lewis around.

It marks a stay-the-course coaching offseason for both of Ohio's teams. The Browns are keeping coach Hue Jackson after they became only the second team in NFL history to go 0-16.

Cardinals QB Palmer retires after 15 NFL seasons

PHOENIX (AP)—Coach them how they knew when Bruce Arians once said he and quarterback Carson Palmer would ride away into the sunset together like a pair of old desert cowboys.

Well, they have.

Palmer announced his retirement after 15 NFL seasons on Tuesday in an open letter released by Cardinals, one day after Arians said he was leaving his long coaching career.

"Over the years, I've had teammates who decided to hang it up and I would ask

it was time to walk away," the letter began. "The answer was almost always the same: You just know. For me, it is time now. Why? Quite simply, I just know.'

Palmer, who turned 38 last week, made the announcement in an open letter released Tuesday by the Cardinals. Palmer missed the last nine games of what would be his final season with a broken left arm.

He called his long profes-

sional career "the most incred- I was a 23-year-old kid," ible experience of my life."

Palmer and Arians were together the past five seasons, and they included some of the best days of the quarterback's career.

Standing 6-foot-5 with a remarkably strong arm, Palmer was a Heisman Trophy winner at USC and the No. 1-overall pick by Cincinnati in 2002. He threw for 46,247 yards, 12th-most in NFL history, in a career with the Bengals, Oakland and Arizona.

"When I entered the league, ing game.

Palmer wrote. "I'm leaving a 38-year-old husband and father of four with memories and experiences that I will treasure for the rest of my life. And like most things in life, it feels like it all passed in a blink of an eye."

Acquired by the Cardinals for only a sixth-round pick and a swap of seventh-rounders, Palmer's strong arm was a great fit for Arians' "no risk it, no biscuit" big-play pass-

NEW YORK (AP)—The Pro Football Hall of Fame announced its finalists for the class of 2018 on Tuesday, and the list is stacked.

Randy Moss and Ray Lewis highlight the group of first-time nominees, while Terrell Owens returns from a pair of controversial snubs. Brian Urlacher joins Lewis and Moss as finalists looking to make the Hall of Fame on their first ballot.

Lewis and Moss look like shoo-ins, while Urlacher is a strong candidate.

Then again, Owens, now

Owens, Moss lead stacked HoF finalists

in his third year of eligibility, looked like a no-brainer firstballot Hall of Famer only to be turned down twice already despite ranking in the top three all-time in both receiving yards and receiving touchdowns.

Owens' brash attitude and reputation for being a lessthan-ideal teammate appeared to override his undeniable production on the field. His will be the most-closely scrutinized candidacy.

Steve Hutchinson also made the cut to the finals as first-year eligibles. They join center

Kevin Mawae, tackles Joe Jacoby and Tony Boselli, receiver Isaac Bruce, safeties John Lynch and Brian Dawkins, guard Alan Faneca, running back Edgerrin James, cornerbacks Ty Law and Everson Walls for consideration.

The seniors committee has

nominated guard Jerry Kramer and linebacker Robert

Brazile. The contributor's nominee is Bobby Beathard, a former general manager and administrator

for five franchises.

Voting by the Hall of Fame selectors will be Feb. 3 in Minneapolis. Inductions will be in August at the Canton, Ohio, shrine.

The modern-era finalists

were determined by a vote of the selection committee from a list of 108 nominees that was earlier reduced to 27 semifinalists during a year-long pro-

Kramer was a mainstay of the great Green Bay offensive lines from 1948-68 and is famous for his block that led Bart Starr into the end zone for the winning touchdown in the Ice Bowl 50 years ago. Brazile was an outstanding linebacker

with the Houston Oilers from

Beathard helped build championship winners and contenders in Kansas City, Atlanta, Miami, Washington and San Diego from 1966-1999.

This is the second year as a finalist for Bruce. Boselli. Dawkins, James, Law and Mawae. In their third try are Faneca, Jacoby and Owens. Lynch is in his fifth year as a finalist. Walls made the final round for the first time in his 20th year of eligibility. Jacoby is also in his 20th year

Thomas shines in debut as Cavs down Trail Blazers

CLEVELAND
(AP—Isaiah Thomas had one last wait.
Sitting on the scorer's table, Thomas could see the end of

his seventh-month odyssey in front of him. And when the buzzer finally sounded and the Cleveland crowd erupted for a player it barely knows, Thomas took the last few steps onto the court and completed a trip he hopes to never take again.

He was all the way back.

Thomas showed flashes of what made him an All-Star in his long-awaited debut for the Cavaliers, who snapped a three-game losing streak by beating the Portland Trail Blazers 127-110 on Tuesday night.

"It's been a long journey for me," Thomas said. "I couldn't really see the light at the end of the tunnel. For that day to come the first couple days of 2018, it's going to be a special year."

It was a special night for Thomas, who scored 17 points and played 19 minutes in his first game in seven months, an impressive return to action for the dynamic point guard traded to Cleveland last summer. He added three 3-pointers and three assists before leaving with 8:10 remaining and the Cavs up by 12.

Before leaving the floor, Thomas got a hug from LeBron James and one from Cavs coach Tyronn Lue, who pulled him close and offered two perfect words.

"Welcome back," Lue said. James scored 24 points, Kevin Love had 19 and Jae Crowder added 15 for the Cavs, who were coming off losses at Golden State, Sacramento and Utah.

Damian Lillard scored 25 for the Blazers after missing five games with a hamstring injury. Jusuf Nurkic added 23 and CJ McCollum had 19 for Portland.

Thomas hadn't played since May 19 because of a torn labrum in his hip that ended his 2017 postseason with Boston and threatened to derail his career. But the 5-foot-9 playmaker, who inspired the Celtics and an entire city last year by playing in the immediate aftermath of his sister's death, patiently stuck with his rehab.

And with 4:33 left in the first quarter, Thomas checked in to a loud ovation as fans cheered for a player they believe can help the Cavs win another title.

"It was a special moment," he said. "I haven't played in a game and you would think I was here for a few years and playing and battling in the Finals with this team. But it was



Cleveland Cavaliers' Isaiah Thomas, right, drives past Portland Trail Blazers' Al-Farouq Aminu in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, in Cleveland.

Lakers 'Ball, Lopez cleared for practice return EL SEGUNDO, Calif. right ankle Dec. 18. The vet- the former No. 3 overall pick Minnesota. I think I'll start to

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers guard Lonzo Ball and center Brook Lopez have been cleared to return to practice after recent injury absences.

Ball and Lopez are both questionable for the Lakers' next game against Oklahoma City on Wednesday.

Ball has been out with a sprained left shoulder since Dec. 23, missing five consecutive games. The rookie No. 2 overall draft pick is averaging 10.0 points, 7.1 assists and 6.9 rebounds per game.

Lopez has missed eight games since spraining his

special for my family to be here, my wife and kids to see that, that's genuine love right there."

This was the first chance for James and the rest of the Cavs to play with Thomas, who will sit out Wednesday's homecoming in Boston. He's not an enemy, but family.

"What I like most about him is he has a chip on his shoulder for life," James said. "That's just who he is. When a guy's got a chip on his shoulder for life, he's never going to not work hard. Not going to never give it his all. Not going to never disappoint you."

The Cavs were unable to separate from the Blazers until Thomas and Dwyane Wade teamed up in the fourth.

right ankle Dec. 18. The veteran big man is averaging 12.8 points and 4.3 rebounds per game in his first season with Los Angeles.

The Lakers (11-25) have lost seven straight games to fall back into last place in the Western Conference standings.

In New York, Jahlil Okafor's slow path to the Brooklyn Nets' rotation is finally about to hit the fast track. His career has been stuck in park since his rookie season in Philadelphia. Instead of getting the bump in minutes he anticipated following his trade to the Nets last month,

Thomas knocked down a jumper and then fired a pass toward the baseline to a cutting Wade, who made a reverse layup. On Cleveland's next possession, Thomas spotted up in the corner and buried a 3-pointer to give the Cavs a 100-91 lead.

"This is obviously our first time playing together, but you can see moments where he added a dynamic that we need, especially if we want to get to where we want to be," Wade said. "Happy that he's back on the court and glad he's on our side."

Spurs 100, Knicks 91

In New York, he's now the fifth-winningest coach in

the former No. 3 overall pick has been inactive for all but one game and hasn't seen action since he played 23 minutes against the Toronto Raptors on Dec. 15.

Following that trial run, Nets coach Kenny Atkinson found some issues in his conditioning and placed Okafor on a fitness regimen to chisel him into proper game shape. According to New York Post reporter Brian Davis, the Okafor experience is finally set to roll off the lot on Wednesday against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"I expect to see him against

NBA history, though there are some things Gregg Popovich still doesn't know.

Like what everybody was yelling about after Manu Ginobili's overthrown pass, for example.

He was just as fooled initially as the referees and didn't realize the ball had gone in the basket, the most bizarre bucket of San Antonio's victory over the New York Knicks.

"I did not, in all honestly. I did not," Popovich said. "Then everybody started grabbing me and saying the ball went in. I said, 'Yeah, the ball went in!' I acted like I knew what was going on."

He almost always does. Popovich earned his 1,176th Minnesota. I think I'll start to get him some minutes," Atkinson said Monday before the Nets beat the Magic 98-95 at Barclays Center. "He's been doing a phenomenal job getting ready physically with our assistant coaches, learning what we're doing. So collectively we feel that he's ready to get some minutes.

"That'll be a progression. We'll build him up. We'll evaluate where he is physically and game-wise. Like anybody, you've got to earn it with play. Let's see him in small doses and hopefully build him up to bigger minutes.

victory, all with the Spurs. The five-time champion broke a tie with his friend George Karl.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 29 points and Kawhi Leonard had a season-high 25 for the Spurs. Ginobili finished with 12 points—three of them coming on what appeared to be a pass that went into the basket without everyone noticing.

"He makes magic happen," Aldridge said. "He's the only 40-year-old that can make plays like he does every night."

Suns 104, Hawks 103

In Phoenix, Devin Booker sank three free throws to put Phoenix ahead with 12.3 seconds to play, Marquese Chriss blocked Taurean Prince's shot at the rim with 7 seconds to go and the Suns rallied from down 10 in the final 2 1/2 minutes to beat the Atlanta Hawks 104-103 on Tuesday night.

Booker scored eight of his 34 points in the final 37 seconds as the Suns finished with a 15-4 run. T.J. Warren scored 31 and Chriss had 17 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks for Phoenix.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 21 points for Atlanta. Kent Bazemore and Dennis Schroder added 20 apiece.

Bazemore made 7 of 8 shots, including 4 of 5 3-pointers, but he fouled Booker on a 3-point attempt with the Hawks clinging to a two-point lead.

Booker made all three to put the Suns on top 102-101. Prince then got free for what looked to be an open layup, but Chriss came from the other side of the court to block the shot.

Booker made two more at the line with 6.5 seconds remaining to make it 104-101. With the Hawks needing a 3-pointer to tie it, Schroder instead drove for the layup to cut it to one, but by then there was just a half-second to play and the Suns handed Atlanta its seventh straight road loss.

Atlanta led by as many as 14 in the first half and was up 99-89 after Prince's inside basket with 2:53 to play.

Hornets 113, Kings 111

In Sacramento, Dwight Howard had 20 points and eight rebounds, Kemba Walker added 12 points and 10 assists and the Charlotte Hornets built a big early lead and beat the Sacramento Kings 131-111 on Tuesday.

Nicolas Batum scored 21 points, Jeremy Lamb added 16, and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist and Marvin Williams had 10 points apiece to help the Hornets to their third consecutive win in Sacramento.

Charlotte came in as one of the NBA's worst 3-point shooting teams but repeatedly got open looks from beyond the arc, especially in the first half when the Hornets made 10 of their season-high-tying 15 3s. Lamb and Batum made three apiece to pace the outside shooting.

Four days after stunning Golden State to begin their four-game trip, the Hornets set season highs in scoring and for points scored in the first half (72). Charlotte's previous high was 129 points in an overtime win over Washington on Nov. 22.

Zach Randolph had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Sacramento. Skal Labissiere added 17 points and a careerbest 15 rebounds for the Kings, who have lost five of six.

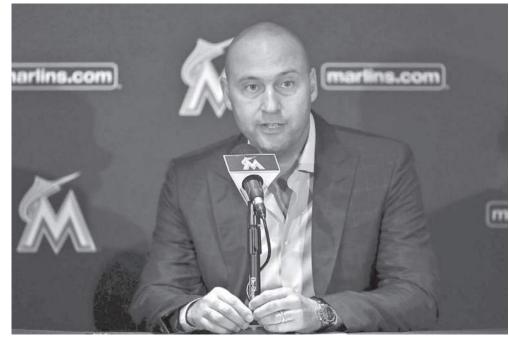
Jeter believes Marlins attendance will soar even after trades



pretty confident the Miami Marlins are on the right track. In his business plan detailing what he would do if selected as the team's partial owner, Jeter projected not only big profits for the Marlins down the road, but a big spike in attendance as well.

The plan, which was acquired by Barry Jackson of the Miami Herald, paints an optimistic view of the Marlins in the future. According to Jeter, the Marlins will be extremely profitable and popular ... and they won't have to spend a ton of money to get there. In other words, he's tried to convince investors the Marlins would be the perfect franchise.

That was the main pitch Jeter's group made to investors in August. And, well, what did you expect him to say? Of course he was going



to prop up the organization. That's kind of his job.

Jackson has a strong breakdown of the particulars, which are overly optimistic bordering on fantasy. But the biggest thing that stands out is Jeter's projection that attendance will increase mightily over the next few years.

The Marlins generated about \$30 million in ticket revenue last season, but Wolverine projects increases to \$37.5 million in 2018 and \$40.6 million and \$45.8 million the following two seasons.

According to a source, even

Miami Marlins co-owner Derek Jeter speaks during a town hall meeting at Marlins Park in Sunrise, Fla., Tuesday, Dec. 19,

though the National League announced the Marlins' attendance at 1.6 million last season, only 820,000 were paid tickets.

Wolverine projects the paid figures to rise to 1.1 million, 1.2 million, 1.35 million, 1.5 million and 1.65 million over the next five seasons.

It's worth noting that those projections were made before the team traded away Giancarlo Stanton, Dee Gordon and Marcell Ozuna. While you might be inclined to think Jeter tricked investors, that's not the case. Jeter made it pretty clear in his pitch that the team would operate with a lower payroll this year. Anyone who invested had to know cost-cutting moves were in the team's future.

That only adds to the confusion, though. If everyone knew the Marlins were going to drastically cut payroll, why didn't they question those attendance figures?

Even the most optimis-

tic Marlins fan would have a tough time figuring out how the club expects to get an additional \$7.5 million in ticket revenue next year. At the time this plan was sent, it was plausible to believe having Jeter's name on the ownership group would bring more fans out in 2018. Not only that, but getting Jeffrey Loria out of control might have led to some fans gladly coming back.

But since then, Jeter has alienated parts of the fanbase by trading away Stanton, Gordon and Ozuna. Christian Yelich and J.T. Realmuto are great players, but it's tough to imagine fans paying an additional \$7.5 million more to watch them try to carry the other 23 Marlins on their backs every single night. That might be entertaining, but we wouldn't call it fun.

There are other ways to make money, of course. Perhaps Jeter believes he can get more businesses in the area to invest in luxury boxes or season tickets. Maybe he has some strong marketing ideas aimed at getting fans back in the seats. Successfully re-branding a team can go a long way.

Mexico City, Japan could be in A's travel plans for 2019

OAKLAND (AP)—The A's could be headed to Mexico City in spring 2019 to play multiple exhibitions as part of Major League Baseball's efforts to expand its international audience.

Oakland was in discussions to play in Mexico City this upcoming spring, according to A's traveling secretary Mickey Morabito, but that idea was scratched because a new ballpark being built there is not quite ready yet. The A's remain in play for two exhibitions in Mexico City in 2019 against a yet-to-be-determined opponent if the plans come to fruition.

The A's most likely would send a split squad south of the border and leave another group in Arizona to continue Cactus League play, which is what they did in 2015 when they played exhibitions in Las Vegas.

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred mentioned Mexico City, Charlotte and Montreal as strong contenders for an expansion franchise while addressing the issue during last season's All-Star Game festivities. Mexico City, the largest city in North America based on population, currently is home to the Diablos Rojos of the Mexican League.

The A's always ask to be

considered for international play, and their 2019 schedule may include quite the globetrotting itinerary. In addition to potential exhibitions in Mexico, NBC Sports California confirmed that Oakland also is being considered for a return trip to Japan to open the '19 regular season, as reported recently by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Oakland began the 2008 season with two games against the Boston Red Sox at the Tokyo Dome and returned there in 2012 for an opening series against the Seattle Mariners. A's officials gave positive reviews on both experiences, and the team's payout for games in Japan surely would be more than the gate for two games at the Coliseum.

The Los Angeles Angels, who signed Japanese star Shohei Ohtani this winter, would be a natural choice as one of the teams to play in Japan. The Red Sox and New York Yankees are considered leading candidates for a planned series in London later in the 2019 season.

The Cleveland Indians and Minnesota Twins will play a two-game series in April of this upcoming season in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

WAR

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seven other participants in the middleweight class.

Twenty individuals joined the Art of War 12, including the lone female participant— Seahara Cruz. Majority of the grapplers were entered into two to three weight classes and winners were decided on points (if no submission was made) at the end of the threeminute bout.

Trench Tech's last competition for 2017 and the MMA group has yet to make an announcement on its calendar of events for the new year. However, Trench Tech is expected to have the regular Rites of Passage and Trench Warz for 2018 and will continue having Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, MMA, kickboxing, and circuit training classes at its gym.

The Art of War 12 was

For more information, contact Cuki Alvarez at 783-4MMA.

great pride in representing MP

SONICS

From Page 28

with its 1-2 record, breaking into the win column after defeating Sonics XVI last Tuesday, 54-44. Sonics XVI has the same mark as Sonics XVII, while Saipan Vegas Elite holds a 0-2 slate and Saipan Vegas Extreme owns a 0-3 card to stay at the bottom of the team standings.

Saipan Vegas Extreme had only six players when it challenged the Sonics XVIII, which paraded a nearly complete lineup. With enough manpower, Sonics XVIII controlled the match right from the get-go, leading at 44-18 by halftime. The Sonics XVIII kept going in the second half for the most lopsided victory so far in the tournament.

Saipan Vegas Extreme also had a depleted lineup in their match against Kanoa Resort last Tuesday, allowing the latter to cruise to an 83-48 victory.

Kanoa drew double figures from four players with Warren

Ellama leading the way with his 19 points. Jaydon Tenorio chipped in 13, while D.J. Ong and Joseph Muna contributed 12 and 10, respectively. The output of these four players were enough to outgun the entire Saipan Vegas Extreme crew, which got 14 points from Francisco Mizutani.

In the Sonics XVI-XVII tiff, Christian Bravo and Parsley Linaogo teamed up in lifting the latter to the 10-point win. Bravo and Linaogo tallied 12 points each, while John Caruana and J.D. Ejercito combined for 11 more markers. Joshua Chavez paced Sonics XVI with his 10 points.

Meanwhile, in the girls division, Fiesta Resort and CTSI posted contrasting wins.

Fiesta eased past IT&E, 32-22, while CTSI edged Marianas Variety, 35-33.

Nana Watanabe scored CTSI's last 6 points to help her squad escape past Marianas Variety. She finished the game with 11 markers and all came in the second half, which started with CTSI clinging to an 11-9 lead.

Tawnie Manibusan and Miki Kautz had 11 and 10 points, respectively, on a losing effort for Marianas Variety.

In the other girls division game, Fiesta Resort leaned on Irish Pagarao and Sharmaine Francisco to beat IT&E. Pagarao tallied 8 markers, while Francisco had 7, and five other Fiesta Resort players made it to the team's box scores.

Only five players hit the board for IT&E, which missed the services of its key player Jeraldine Castillo.

BOYS DIVISION First Game

Kanoa Resort 83 — Ellama 19, Tenorio 13, Ong 12, Muna 10, Santos 9, Deleon Guerrero 4, Seok 4, Garijo 4.

Saipan Vegas 48 — Mizutani 14, Lahara 10, Atan 10, King 9, Tisa 3.

Scoring by halves: 41-24,

Second Game

Sonics XVII 54 — Bravo

12, Linaogo 12, Caruana 6, Je. Ejercito 5, Bayot 4, Cadag 3, Jo. Ejercito 2, Favor 2, Francisco 2.

XVI 44 — Chavez 10, Dancel 9, R. Bernardo 6, Contreras 5, Favor 4, Magat 2, Mendoza 2.

Scoring by halves: 29-22, 54-44.

GIRLS DIVISION First Game

CTSI 35 — Watanabe 11, Alegre 7, Pablo 6, Alferos 4, Espinosa 4, Ito 2.

Marianas Variety 33 — Manibusan 11, Kautz 10, Flores 5, Han 2, Reyes 2, Villagomez 2.

Scoring by halves: 11-9, 35-33.

Second Game

Fiesta Resort 32 — Pagarao 8, Francisco 7, Borja 4, Joyce 6, Ngalongalo 3, Avelino 2, Tuazon 2.

IT&E 22 — Marasigan 7, Pena 6, Lumabi 4, Jerlyn Castillo 4, Ocampo 1.

Scoring by halves: 12-7,

United FC, and participate in something that may very well be an opportunity of a life time. The team would like to thank, MP United FC, IT&E, sponsors, parents, and most especially coach Seki for in-

> the coach added. Team manager Liza Castro, on the other hand, said last month's tournament was a testing ground for the developing squad. "This was a very good op-

viting MP United FC U12A,"

portunity for our team to compete against foreign oppositions. They exposed themselves to the bigger picture, immersed themselves in a foreign football culture, and tested their skills against foreign teams. All our players had a good experience in this tournament as they were introduced to different cultures, were able to enhance their technical abilities, and learned new tactics that for sure will help them improve," Castro said.

MPU

From Page 28

from organizers, while team captain Takahashi won one of the MVP titles in the competition.

"The kids got to see firsthand the different levels of talent in the tournament. The friendship, exposure and experience that they got from this tournament will last for a lifetime," said Gene Weaver, who thanked former Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi for inviting the club to the tournament.

"When Coach Seki extended the invitation to MP United FC U12A, we accepted it without hesitation. The tournament provided a unique opportunity for these talented and hard working individuals to participate and compete at a higher level in their division and it enabled them to have the chance to develop lifelong friendships with teams they challenged, experience SAIPAN TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 27

36th Annual Christmas Island Relay

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Agape Christian School A runners answer questions from KSPN news director Bob Coldeen after completing the race in last Satur-



Rinty FC members run together to the finish line.



TanHoldings runners race to the finish line en route to winning the



Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services cadets line up as they head to the finish line.



TRAC 1 runners are all smiles as they are about to finish the 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club Sainan in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marni



Sato Japan runners celebrate as they near completion of the race.



The Ol'Aces' Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, leads his teammates to the finish line.



Patriots end regular season at No. 1 in poll

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Thomas shines in debut as Cavs down Trail Blazers

PAGE 25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018

Sonics XVIII and XVII triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

victories, while Sonics XVII also won at the resumption of games in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Sonics XVIII, which bowed M&M Salas Ol'Aces during

the tournament's opening day last Dec. 27, downed Saipan Vegas Elite last Saturday, 83-42, and Saipan Vegas Extreme yesterday, 103-38, to move to second place in the team standings in the eight-squad field. Sun Palace, Kanoa Re-

fter dropping its debut, Sonics XVIII earned back-to-back

are tied for the first place with their similar 2-0 records (pending the complete results of yesterday's matches in the boys division).

Sonics XVII is in third place

See SONICS on Page 26





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO MP United Football Club U12 players join a Japanese team for a group photo at the conclusion of the 1st Ota International Football Tournament held in Tokyo, Japan late last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn monroyo@saipantribune.com

United Football Club's U12 team won three of its last four games for a strong finish in the Challenge League Division of the 1st Ota Interna-

tional Football Tournament held in Tokyo, Japan late last

MP United dropped its first two matches, prevailed in the next three and lost its last game in the inaugural tournament that took place last Dec. 23 and 24. The visiting squad topped Bears Soccer School, 5-2, to make up for its back-to-back losses to Ohmoro FC, 1-15, and Shosen FC, 2-6, on Day 1 of the competition. The Gene Weaver-coached team then shut down Nepal Youth, 6-0, before extending its streak

to three with another victory over Bears Soccer School. 5-2, on Day 2. MP United

missed a sweep of its last four matches after falling to Koike FC, 1-7. Ohmori FC won the tournament, outlasting Higashi-Chofu

Daiichi FC in a shootout. Garrett Weaver, Leo Takahashi, Aubrey Castro, Audrey Castro, Richie Castro, Evan Mendiola, Dev Bachani, and Kristoffer Pascual suited up for the MPU U12 crew that saw action in the two-day tournament. Liza Castro and Tori Weaver were also part of the squad with the former serving as team manager and the latter as assistant coach.

Pascual was the squad's goalkeeper and received the "Most Impressive Award"

See MPU on Page 26

'The Clinch' gains twin wins in Art of War

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Vince "The Clinch" Masga

Tech's Art of War 12: Grappling Submission Fighting Challenge after topping two categories of last Saturday's competition at Trench Tech



Gym in Garapan.

cured the heavyweight championship, too in the one-day tournament that had a winner-Masga first claimed the weltake-all format and awarded

\$50 cash to the victor. the featherweight competition, Giovanni Taitingfong was the last man standing, besting six other participants. In the lightweight, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez came out victorious against seven other grapplers. Rounding out the roster of winners was Spike 22/Steel Athletics Guam's Kenji Okiyama, who prevailed against

terweight crown and later se-

See WAR on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Vince "The Clinch" Masga, second right, poses with other participants in last Saturday's Art of War 12: Grappling Submission Fighting Challenge held at the Trench Tech Gym in

